

THE SOLO CRUISE COMPANY

THE AMAZON

Date

Oct. 21st - Nov. 9th, 2024

Price

20 days from **€16.512**

Ship

Seabourn Venture

Climate

Dry, 22 - 33°C

Oct. 21st • Arrive in Manaus

Manaus, at first glance, emerges as a beacon of civilisation amidst the untamed wilderness. Nestled at the confluence of two major rivers and nearly at the heart of the Amazon, the city surprises visitors with its bustling metropolis, complete with towering structures, shopping centres, and a vibrant population of approximately 2 million residents, all immersed in their daily routines.

Oct. 21st

Board the Stunning Seabourn Venture

Begin to cruise the Amazon River.

Oct. 22nd • Amazon Experience

Depending on the water levels and other changing conditions, your captain and veteran expedition leader will choose from among the innumerable fascinating sites along this particular stretch of the Amazon River to plot itineraries for Zodiac and kayak explorations, treks and visits to places and people of interest. Expedition team members will also be on deck and in observation lounges offering insights into the passing terrain and pointing out wildlife and other highlights while the ship is at anchor or cruising the river.

Oct. 23rd

Parintins, Brazil (Tender by Zodiac)

Situated near the border of the states of Para and Amazonas, Parintins is a charming town that proudly wears the title of the 'Capital of Folklore.' It is renowned for hosting the 'Boi-Bumba' festival, a vibrant celebration that unfolds over three days at the end of June each year. The magnitude and reach of this event are akin to the Brazilian Carnaval that takes place across the country in February/March.

Visitors can independently explore Parintins, where they'll discover quaint souvenir shops scattered throughout the town. A special presentation is arranged for our quests in a private area near the floating pier.

Included Shore Excursions:

Boi Bumba Show:

The Boi Bumba is among Brazil's most celebrated folk festivals. It's a magical world filled with vivid colours, enchanting music, dance, and folklore – a true sensory feast.

Included Expeditions:

Zodiac Cruise:

Embark on a Zodiac cruise for an immersive nature experience, guided by our onboard expedition team.

*Experiences subject to change.

Oct. 24th

Cruising the Amazon River

The Amazon is indisputably the largest river on Earth by volume of discharge. At its mouth, its flow into the Atlantic Ocean exceeds the combined flow of the next seven largest rivers. While disputes exist over whether it's the world's longest river, most concede it may rank second to the Nile. Its width at the mouth ranges between approximately 177 and 290 kilometres, depending on the measurement used.

Your voyage will navigate the river for about 1,609 kilometres from the sea. At times, the river resembles a flowing ocean, while at other times, you'll witness the banks. Numerous vessels of various sizes traverse between the Amazon basin and the wider world. Encompassing 40 percent of South America, the basin holds a third of all known living species. The river alone supports over 5,600 fish species. Despite flowing through Brazil, the Amazon has a unique identity, with diverse lifestyles and cultures. Life along the shores, both human and otherwise, is profoundly influenced by the river's ever-changing cycles of drought and flood. There's much to discover about the Amazon. Enjoy your journey along its fascinating shores.

Oct. 25th

Santarem, Brazil

Situated at the confluence of the Amazon River and the Tapajos River, Santarém provides easy access to two of Brazil's most significant waterways. The city's laid-back daily life offers a relaxed backdrop for exploration. Santarém enjoyed prosperity during the Rubber Boom Era in the late 1800s, and even attracted the attention of Henry Ford. He invested substantially in the city, establishing the town of "Fordlandia". This commercial venture was designed to harvest and export rubber for his burgeoning vehicle industry's tire manufacturing.

Included Expeditions:

Ponta Negra/Santarém Nature Exploration by Zodiac

Navigate the narrow channel opposite the city of Santarém; this channel meanders along Ponta Negra, a quaint peninsula nestled between the Amazon and Tapajos Rivers. Witness the mesmerising flooded forest, a thriving ecosystem teeming with tropical birds. By the end of this expedition, you'll gain a deeper understanding of how local people harmoniously live, interact, and utilise this environment.

Oct. 26th

Amazon Experience

Depending on the water levels and other changing conditions, your captain and veteran expedition leader will choose from among the innumerable fascinating sites along this particular stretch of the Amazon River to plot itineraries for Zodiac and kayak explorations, treks and visits to places and people of interest.

Expedition team members will also be on deck and in observation lounges offering insights into the passing terrain and pointing out wildlife and other highlights while the ship is at anchor or cruising the river.

Oct. 27th

Macapa, Brazil

Capital of the Amapá state in northern Brazil, Macapá is located in the Amazon delta along the river's northern channel where it feeds into the Atlantic. It also sits directly on the Equator, a distinction marked by the 98-foot-high Marco Zero monument where you can stand astride the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

Portuguese settlers established an outpost here in the early 18th century; the Fortaleza de São José, dating from 1782, stands as a symbol of the city's colonial past and one of the best-preserved military structures in Brazil. Macapá — which is accessible only by boat or plane — serves as a pitstop for migrating birds, seen feeding alongside flamingos, ibises, and other local species that inhabit its rich wetlands.

Surfers flock here for a chance to ride the Pororoca, one of the longest tidal bores in the world with waves that reach 12 feet in height. Less extreme activities include relaxing on a wide river beach like Fazendinha and Araxá, browsing Casa de Artesão for unusual handcrafts made by the area's indigenous people, and visiting the nearby village of Apa do Curiaú, home to descendants of escaped slaves.

Oct. 28th

Crossing the Equator

If you are a "pollywog," who has never crossed the line at sea, you will be expected to undergo a mock trial by King Neptune and his court for the entertainment of the "shellbacks" who have already done so. Mild but hilarious indignities will be conjured, and in the end a good time will be had by most, if not all.

Oct. 29th

Cruising

Day at Sea

Oct. 30th

Cruising

Day at Sea

Oct. 31st • Natal, Brazil

Natal is the capital of Rio Grande do Norte, a Brazilian state located in the country's northeast. The city lies near the mouth of the Potenji (Potengi) River along the Atlantic coast, and its sun-kissed shores are lined with gorgeous white-sand beaches and towering dunes.

The 16th-century Forte dos Reis Magos is an imposing, star-shaped fortress that marks the place where Natal was officially founded by the Portuguese on December 25, 1599 (Natal is Portuguese for "Christmas"). Ribeira and Cidade Alta, the city's oldest neighbourhoods, invite with an array of handsome colonial and Victorian buildings, many of which are now adorned with colourful murals. Natal's vibrant Afro-Brazilian culture gave birth to the capoeira circle, an intoxicating blend of martial arts, acrobatics, dance, and music that UNESCO designated as a living expression of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

You might see capoeira groups performing on one of the city's popular beaches like Ponta Negra; browse the nearby handicraft market for unique ceramics, musical instruments, textiles, and wooden sculptures. Head to Genipabu (Jenipabu) to ride a camel, go sand surfing, or drive a buggy around its huge complex of sand dunes.

Nov. 1st • Cruising

Day at Sea

Nov. 2nd • Cruising

Day at Sea

Nov. 3rd • Cruising

Day at Sea

Nov. 4th

Rio de Janeiro (Disembark Seabourn Venture)

The harbour of Rio de Janeiro, cradled by the southern contours of Guanabara Bay beneath the majestic shadows of Corcovado and Sugarloaf mountains, stands as one of the world's most unique and aweinspiring ports. Approaching by sea, Sugarloaf Mountain serves as a welcoming beacon, inviting you to experience an exhilarating cable-car ride to its summit for a panoramic view of the city and its famed beaches: Copacabana, Tijuca, Ipanema, and Leblon.

Rio de Janeiro pulsates with the rhythm and vitality of its renowned Carnaval Sambadrome parades, regardless of when you choose to visit. The city boasts UNESCO World Heritage status, acknowledged as the 'Carioca Landscapes, Between the Mountain and the Sea.' Your exploration of Rio wouldn't be complete without visiting certain landmarks: the ascent to Sugarloaf, the lush Tijuca Rainforest Park, the towering Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado, and for football aficionados, the legendary Maracanã Stadium.

Morning:

Upon disembarkation and after collecting your luggage, your Concierge Host will escort you to your waiting transportation for a 3-hour morning sightseeing tour of the highlights of this incredible city. The tour concludes at Ipanema Beach, where you will enjoy lunch at one of the many elegant restaurants in this area.

Afternoon:

Following a leisurely lunch, you will drive the short distance to your beautiful hotel, the very chic <u>Emiliano Rio de Janeiro</u> or a similar option for check-in. The hotel is located right on Copacabana beach, where it meets Ipanema beach. The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore the area or take a wonderful stroll along one of the most famous beaches in the world.

Evening:

Enjoy a relaxed evening at leisure. Your Concierge Host will be on hand to assist you with any dining reservations you may require in the hotel.

Meals:

Breakfast (onboard)/Lunch

Nov. 5th

Rio de Janeiro

Morning:

After breakfast, seize the opportunity to visit Rio's renowned Museu de Arte do Rio, one of Brazil's foremost museums. The museum showcases both traditional and contemporary Brazilian works of art, ranging from sculptures to photographs and works on paper. Temporary exhibitions are always on display, offering visitors a chance to contemplate a diverse range of topics and view images from new perspectives. A visit to this museum is an excellent way to spend the morning, accompanied by a private guided tour of the exhibitions.

Afternoon:

Following a light lunch, elevate your experience with a bird's eye view of Rio. Embark on a 30-minute helicopter ride that captures the city's highlights, including Sugar Loaf Mountain and the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer. Afterward, head to nearby Leblon, renowned for some of the best shopping in Rio de Janeiro. Take your time browsing for the perfect gift or indulgence, savour a relaxed coffee, or enjoy the perfect afternoon caipirinha. You can return to the hotel at your convenience, as it's only a short taxi ride back along Ipanema beach from Leblon.

Evening:

In the evening, experience the culinary delights of the one-Michelin star Asian fusion restaurant, Mee, situated in the famous Copacabana Palace Hotel. Your Concierge Host will arrange pre-dinner cocktails, followed by the Chef's tasting menu.

Meals:

Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Nov. 6th

Iguazu Falls/Das Cataratas

Morning:

We will arrange your transfer to the airport for your flight from Rio de Janeiro to Foz do Iguazu airport, just a 30-minute drive within the Iguazu National Park, where the stunning Belmond Hotel Das Cataratas is located.

The <u>Hotel Das Cataratas</u> will be your home for the next three nights as you explore this spectacular part of South America. The star of the show is, of course, the famous Iguazu Falls, which form the border of three countries - Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. These stunning falls, set against the backdrop of nature at its most spectacular, are simply breathtaking.

Afternoon:

This afternoon is yours to explore the falls and traverse the bridge walks across this awe-inspiring sight. Afterward, take a leisurely stroll on one of the many nature walks surrounding the hotel or simply relax by the beautiful pool.

During your stay at the Hotel Das Cataratas, we've included a 25-minute facial and a 50-minute massage at the hotel spa. Ensure your appointments are booked before your arrival, and we'll contact you prior to your departure from your home city to arrange your preferred days and times for your treatments.

Evening:

Enjoy your evening at leisure. Your Concierge Host will assist with any dinner reservations you may require at the hotel.

Meals:

Breakfast

Nov. 7th

Iguazu Falls/Das Cataratas

Morning & Afternoon:

Before your departure from your home city, we will provide you with a list of excursions available for you to choose from during your stay at Das Cataratas. These must be pre-booked before your arrival and are limited to a maximum of two excursions today, subject to the operational times allowing you to undertake both. Please note that due to capacity limits on some excursions, we may be unable to confirm your preferred one or may have to schedule one or both of your choices for the following day.

Evening:

We have arranged for dinner "al fresco" on the delightful veranda (weather permitting) of the Itaipu Restaurant. This beautiful restaurant features a tempting selection of Brazilian and international dishes, all complemented by glorious natural surroundings, with the crashing falls as nature's own orchestra.

Meals:

Breakfast/Dinner

Nov. 8th

Iguazu Falls/Das Cataratas

Morning:

Before leaving your home city, we'll share a list of excursions for you to choose from during your stay at Das Cataratas. Pre-booking is essential and limited to a maximum of one excursion today. Due to capacity limits, we may be unable to confirm your preferred choice or may schedule it for the previous day.

If you prefer, spend the day relaxing by the pool or plan another activity. Your Concierge Host is available to assist with any arrangements.

Evening:

As we conclude our incredible journey along the Amazon River, the east coast of Brazil, vibrant Rio de Janeiro, Das Cataratas, and the spectacular Iguazu Falls, we bid farewell with a special dinner tonight! It's a surprise, but promises great music, wonderful food, and your favourite cocktails or wine. Join us to celebrate your travels!

Meals:

Breakfast/Dinner

Nov. 9th

Das Cataratas to Rio de Janeiro & Connecting Flights Home

After breakfast, we depart for the airport for our flight back to Rio de Janeiro, timed to arrive mid-afternoon for convenient onward connections to your home city.

Your Concierge Host, along with our local airport hosts, will assist you with check-in and provide details for your connecting flights.

Saying goodbye is always bittersweet, but we want to express our gratitude for choosing to travel with The Solo Cruise Company. You've become a part of our unique family of travellers, and we sincerely hope your journey was enjoyable and enlightening. We trust you've made special and wonderful new friends, and we look forward to welcoming you back on your next voyage of discovery.

Included

- Services of our Concierge Host throughout your entire journey
- 14-day Amazon & Brazil cruise onboard Seabourn Venture
- 1-night pre cruise hotel accommodation in Manaus
- Private car transfer airport/hotel/ship in Manaus
- 3-nights luxury accommodation in Rio de Janeiro
- Economy class fight from Rio de Janeiro to Iguazu Falls
- Economy class fight from Iguazu Falls to Rio de Janeiro
- 3-nights luxury accommodation in Das Cataratas (Iguazu Falls)
- Spa treatments as noted in the itinerary
- Multiple experiences and excursions as noted in the itinerary
- Private car & group transfers as noted in the itinerary

Excluded

- Long-haul intercontinental flights to Manaus and from Rio de Janeiro
- Airline luggage charges in excess of one 23kg checked bag
- Visa fees
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- Meals & beverages not mentioned in the itinerary
- Laundry & dry cleaning services
- Items of a personal nature
- Credit card fees if paying by Visa, Mastercard or American Express

Further Details

- Minimum age is 55 years.
- This journey contains some active elements, including walks over uneven terrain and labour-intensive activities.
- Specific regarding booking and terms can be found in the <u>Terms & Conditions</u>. the <u>Privacy Policy</u>, or by contacting support@solocruisecompany.com.

Seabourn Venture

