



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

# Brazil: A Botanical & Cultural Journey

Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo & the Amazon Rainforest

June 18 - 27, 2026

With Dr. Lúcia G. Lohmann, President and Director



Dear Friends and Members,

As a botanist who has spent my career studying the flora of Latin America, I invite you to join me on a deeply personal journey through my home country of Brazil. From **June 18 to 27, 2026**, we will explore leading botanical gardens, historical museums, modernist architecture, and the Amazon rainforest.

I am thrilled to lead my first program, carefully designed for the friends and members of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Our trip begins amid the tropical landscapes and cultural centers of **Rio de Janeiro** and **São Paulo**, before continuing into the biodiversity-rich Amazon basin, where we will cruise the **Rio Negro**, a black-water tributary of the Amazon River.

This journey brings together my scientific work, the landscapes that shaped my understanding of biodiversity conservation, and the cities that fostered my lifelong passion for music, art, history, and culture.

My family's connections to Brazil span generations, and close relatives have arranged access to spaces rarely available to visitors. My brother **Frederico Garcez Lohmann**, director of São Paulo's Teatro Cultura Artística, the oldest private cultural institution in Latin America, will take us behind the scenes on a tour of the newly renovated theater, before a concert by the Danish String Quartet. My cousin **Paulo César Garcez Marins**, Director of the Museu Paulista, will personally guide us through the museum's newly restored galleries and French-style gardens. During this visit, we will enjoy a preview of the exhibition *Liberdade: A Plural Neighbourhood*, which will open to the public on June 29, exploring the history of Japanese, Lebanese, Russian, and European (especially Portuguese, French, Italian, and German) immigration to Brazil.

In Rio, we will visit historically and culturally significant sites, including the **Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden**, founded in 1808 by King João VI of Portugal. Home to more than 6,500 plant species, the Garden represents a unique convergence of history, science, and landscape design. It is set within a remnant of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, one of the world's greatest biodiversity hotspots.

In the Amazon, we will navigate the **Anavilhanas archipelago** by boat and stay at an eco-lodge built on stilts to accommodate the Rio Negro's 40-foot seasonal rise. Our journey will conclude in Manaus, where we will explore the magnificent Teatro Amazonas and other remnants of the city's 19th-century rubber boom.

I sincerely hope you can join us. **To reserve your place**, please contact our tour operator, Arrangements Abroad, at 212-514-8921 or [trips@arrangements.abroad.com](mailto:trips@arrangements.abroad.com). I very much look forward to welcoming you to Brazil for a journey filled with family, friendship, art, culture, music, and extraordinary flora and fauna.

Warmly,



Dr. Lúcia Garcez Lohmann  
*President and Director*  
*Missouri Botanical Garden*



Map of the region

**Activity Level:**  
Intermediate



**Pace Level:**  
Moderato



## Traveling With *You*



**Dr. Lúcia G. Lohmann** is the eighth president in the Missouri Botanical Garden's 165-year history and the first woman to hold the position. Lúcia earned her undergraduate degree in biology from the University of São Paulo in her native Brazil, where she documented the region's biodiversity and researched the deep history of the Amazon basin over the last 100 million years. She earned her master's and PhD degrees in Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and conducted her graduate and postdoctoral research at the Missouri Botanical Garden. She served as a Professor at the University of São Paulo, Executive Director of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC), and, most recently, as a Professor and Herbarium Director at the University of California, Berkeley. She is an elected member of the São Paulo Academy of Sciences, the California Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She currently serves as President of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT).

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## Trip Highlights

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**Travel** with **Dr. Lúcia G. Lohmann**, President and Director, on a profoundly personal journey through **Brazil**, her home country, whose landscapes have informed her studies as a botanist.

**Join** expert-guided explorations of some of Brazil's most significant botanical collections, including the **Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden** and the **São Paulo Botanical Garden**.

**Explore** Rio's **Sítio Burle Marx**, the UNESCO-listed residence of Brazil's most famous landscape architect, marveling at more than 3,500 native species in his 99-acre laboratory.

**Experience** a VIP behind-the-scenes tour of São Paulo's **MASP**, Lina Bo Bardi's glass-and-concrete museum suspended 26 feet above the ground.

**Meet** **Frederico Garcez Lohmann**, director of São Paulo's **Teatro Cultura Artística**, for a private dinner, a behind-the-scenes theater tour, and a concert by the **Danish String Quartet**.

**Share** a private dinner at **Dr. Lohmann's São Paulo** home and savor exceptional local cuisine.

**Tour** São Paulo's **Museu Paulista** with **Dr. Paulo César Garcez Marins**, who directed its nine-year restoration, walking through its beautifully preserved, 1920s French-style gardens.

**Stay** in innovatively designed accommodations, including the beachfront **Hotel Fasano Rio de Janeiro**, the **Rosewood São Paulo**, and the eco-friendly, rainforest-set **Mirante do Gavião Amazon Lodge**.

**Embark** on a sunrise boat ride along the **Rio Negro**, spotting river dolphins, howler monkeys, and parrots, and explore the **igapó forest by canoe** during high water season.

**Hike** through a patch of **Amazonian dry forest** with **Dr. Lohmann and a local naturalist**, identifying local plants, including medicinal plants used by local communities for centuries.

**Enjoy** a privately guided tour of Manaus's 1896 **Teatro Amazonas**, inaugurated during the city's rubber boom, its dome covered in 36,000 glazed ceramic tiles imported from Alsace.

# Brazil: A Botanical & Cultural Journey

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June 18 - 27, 2026

## Thursday, June 18:

### *Departure*

Depart on an overnight flight to Rio de Janeiro.

## Friday, June 19:

### *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Upon arrival in Rio de Janeiro, transfer to the **Fasano Rio de Janeiro** and settle into your hotel overlooking Ipanema Beach. After lunch at the hotel, join a guided tour through the **Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden**, established in 1808. Walk the half-mile Avenue of Royal Palms, lined with 134 specimens descended from a single tree the Portuguese prince regent planted in 1809.

Gather for drinks and an early dinner at a scenic location. **B,L,D**



Rio de Janeiro



Bruno Giorgi, *Passaro*, 1969, Museum Casa Roberto Marinho

## Saturday, June 20:

### *Rio de Janeiro*

Travel to Barra de Guaratiba to tour **Sítio Burle Marx**, the 99-acre, UNESCO-recognized estate of Roberto Burle Marx, Brazil's pioneering landscape architect. Here, he tested more than 3,500 native species from 1949 until his death in 1994.

Continue to **Santa Teresa**, a hillside neighborhood that maintained its beautiful 19th-century architecture. Enjoy lunch here before a guided walk through Santa Teresa's streets lined with Art Nouveau and street performances.

Then, tour the **Museum Casa Roberto Marinho**, featuring a garden designed by Burle Marx. View its collection of Brazilian artworks by luminaries such as Tarsila do Amaral, Di Cavalcanti, and Candido Portinari.

Those who wish may take the cable car to **Sugar Loaf Mountain** for sunset drinks. One of Rio's iconic natural landmarks, this 1,299-foot granite monolith formed approximately 560 million years ago. Gather for dinner this evening. **B,L,D**



## Sunday, June 21:

### *Rio de Janeiro / São Paulo*

Enjoy a morning city tour through downtown Rio. Pass landmarks including the **Aterro do Flamengo**, where Burle Marx designed the largest urban park in Latin America in the 1960s; the **Mosteiro de São Bento**, a monastery built between 1617 and 1641; and **Maracanã Stadium**, which held nearly 200,000 spectators for the 1950 World Cup final.

After lunch, the group will make our way to the airport for our flight to **São Paulo**. Upon arrival, gather for the transfer to the **Rosewood São Paulo** for check-in. This evening, come together for dinner. **B,L,D**

## Monday, June 22:

### *São Paulo*

Begin the day at the **São Paulo Botanical Garden**, established in 1928, and walk through native forest growing on the acidic soils of the São Paulo Plateau. The orchidarium holds one of South America's oldest and most significant collections, functioning as a genetic repository for threatened species.



Yellow Estívia, São Paulo Botanical Garden



Museu Paulista, photo by Filipe Frazão

After lunch, join architect **André Scarpa** for a guided tour through downtown São Paulo, visiting landmarks such as the **Teatro Municipal**, inaugurated in 1911 with Carrara marble and Belgian tiles in imitation of Paris's Palais Garnier, and the **Catedral da Sé**, whose neo-Gothic towers rise 302 feet above the historic center.

In the evening, join **Frederico Garcez Lohmann**, director of **Teatro Cultura Artística**, for dinner and a tour through the historic concert hall. This visit features a special concert by the **Danish String Quartet**. **B,L,D**

## Tuesday, June 23:

### *São Paulo*

Tour **Parque Ibirapuera**, inaugurated in 1954 by **Governor Lucas Nogueira Garcez**, to commemorate São Paulo's 400th anniversary. The Park includes buildings designed by Brazil's most legendary architect, Oscar Niemeyer. After the tour, the group may visit the **Museu de Arte Moderna** or the **Museu de Arte Contemporânea**, both within the park.

Continue to **Museu Paulista** (also known as **Museu do Ipiranga**), built in 1895 inspired by Italian Renaissance palaces, for a tour guided by the Museum director **Paulo César Garcez Marins**. Enjoy the Museum galleries, the French-style gardens restored to their original 1920s design, and the brand-new exhibition ***Liberdade: A Plural Neighbourhood***, highlighting the history of European, Japanese, Lebanese, and Russian immigration to Brazil.



After lunch, enjoy a VIP tour of the **Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP)**. The visionary architect Lina Bo Bardi designed this innovative building, which was completed in 1968. The structure features a glass-and-concrete box suspended 26 feet above the ground by four prestressed concrete beams painted red.

This evening, join Dr. Lohmann for a private dinner at her São Paulo residence. B,L,D

## Wednesday, June 24:

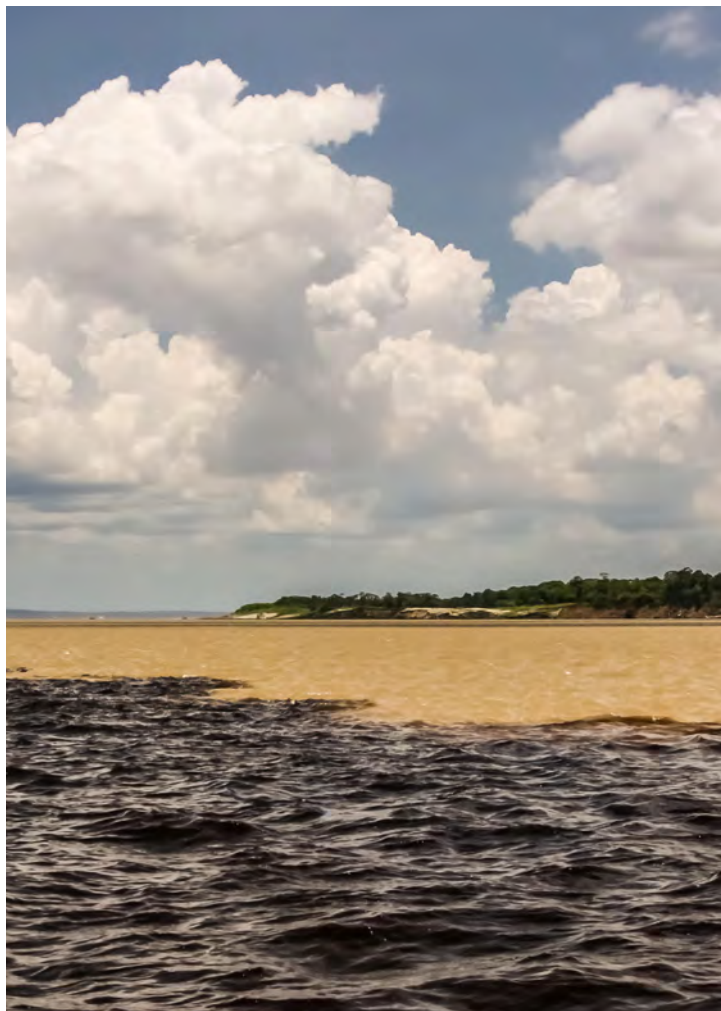
*São Paulo / Manaus / Novo Airão (Amazon)*

Depart São Paulo on a morning flight to **Manaus**, the state capital of Amazonas. Upon arrival, board a boat for a transfer through the **Anavilhanas Archipelago**, the world's second-largest freshwater archipelago, comprising some 400 elongated islands 43 miles upstream from Manaus.

Pass the **Meeting of the Waters**, where the dark, tannin-rich Rio Negro flows alongside the muddy Solimões River for nearly four miles before mixing. Spot wildlife such as monkeys, birds, and sloths before arriving at the luxurious **Mirante do Gavião Amazon Lodge**.



MASP, photo courtesy of Cidade de São Paulo



Meeting of the Waters, Manaus

After lunch featuring regional Amazonian ingredients, participate in **a forest walk or an optional canoe excursion** through flooded channels. June coincides with high water season, when river levels approach their peak and forests partially flood, creating *igapós*, where canoes navigate through treetops.

Return to watch the sunset over the Rio Negro before dinner at the lodge. B,L,D

## Thursday, June 25:

*Novo Airão / Amazon Exploration*

Wake up early for **a special sunrise boat ride** to see Amazon wildlife awakening from their slumber. You may witness howler monkeys calling from the canopy, river dolphins surfacing in the blackwater channels, and flocks of parrots crossing overhead.

After breakfast, visit **a riverside community** to observe traditional fishing techniques and artisanal crafts. In the afternoon, try piranha fishing or explore the *igapó* forest by canoe, depending on water levels and conditions.

Then, join a **hike through dryland forest** and learn medicinal plants local communities have used for generations. The Amazon contains an estimated 45,000 plant species, representing one of the most species-rich regions on Earth.

Return to the lodge for a relaxing evening, with dinner at leisure. **B,L**

## Friday, June 26:

### *Novo Airão / Manaus*

This morning, return to Manaus via boat and check into the **Hotel Villa Amazônia**. In the afternoon, take a privately guided tour of the **Teatro Amazonas**, a remnant of the city's brief rubber boom from 1896. Admire this Renaissance Revival opera house, its dome covered in 36,000 glazed ceramic tiles. Inside, view its collection of Louis XV furniture and Italian marble stairs.



Teatro Amazonas, Manaus

Afterwards, stroll through **Manaus's historic center**, stopping at the **Praça São Sebastião**, which features a black-and-white wave-pattern mosaic, and the **Palácio Rio Negro**, built in 1903 as the private residence of German rubber baron Waldemar Scholz.

This evening, celebrate the journey at a **festive farewell dinner**, which highlights contemporary interpretations of Amazonian cuisine. **B,L,D**

## Saturday, June 27:

### *Manaus / Return*

After breakfast, transfer to the Manaus airport for your flight home. **B**

### Program Rate

**\$12,999 per person, double rate**

**\$16,899 single rate**

### Rate Includes

- Eight nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Internal, one-way, economy-class flights (Rio de Janeiro-São Paulo / São Paulo-Manaus)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all guests on arrival and departure days
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATES:** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

**DISCLAIMER:** This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Missouri Botanical Garden and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/>

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Front cover: Fontana delle Muse, Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro  
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# Accommodations



Mirante do Gavião Amazon Lodge, Novo Airão

## **Hotel Fasano Rio de Janeiro**

The Fasano overlooks Ipanema Beach, its interiors designed by Philippe Starck with Brazilian modernist elements. Rooms and suites face the ocean or mountains. Relax in the rooftop infinity pool or under an umbrella on the beach with private service. Savor Italian cuisine at the Gero Rio restaurant.

## **Rosewood São Paulo**

The Rosewood occupies the former Filomena Matarazzo Maternity Hospital, built in 1943. Jean Nouvel designed the adjacent 28-story tower wrapped in wooden lattices hosting over 10,000 native trees and plants. Philippe Starck designed the 160 rooms and suites using exclusively Brazilian materials, including local wood and marble. The property features six dining venues, Asaya Spa, outdoor pools, and a fitness center.

## **Mirante do Gavião Amazon Lodge, Novo Airão**

Designed by Atelier O'Reilly, the lodge sits along the Rio Negro, its bungalows and suites resting on stilts to accommodate the river's annual rise and fall. Roofs of piaçava palm fiber and certified hardwoods promote natural ventilation through the stack effect. Enjoy regional Amazonian cuisine from its chefs.

## **Hotel Villa Amazônia, Manaus**

This boutique hotel occupies a restored rubber baron mansion steps from the Teatro Amazonas. Thirty rooms overlook an interior garden and natural stone pool, and you can take advantage of its rooftop pool, fitness center, and restaurant serving regional cuisine.



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**RESERVATION FORM**

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944; email: [trips@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:trips@arrangementsabroad.com); or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (mobile)

(home)

E-mail

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Hotel room preference ☐ one bed ☐ two beds

I wish to share a room with

**FORM OF PAYMENT**

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*)

☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see <https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/> to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date