

THE PRIVATE JET LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ELITE

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14 DAYS

14 DAYS

IN SOUTH AMERICA

BUENOS AIRES / ARGENTINA

From Buenos Aires, the outpost of European high culture in South America, to the pristine, rugged coastline of nearby Uruguay, to the up-and-coming economic powerhouse of Brazil, the host of the 2014 World Cup, this 14-day itinerary focuses on the exotic beauty south of the equator, its cities, and the exclusive beach-stomping grounds of the region's elite. Giving a total sense of place by delving into the food, culture, and recreation along the Atlantic Coast of South America, this unique private jet tour into the southern hemisphere promises unparalleled access to the very best of beach and city.

BY SCOTT GEOTZ

1 TANGO INTO BUENOS AIRES

A **Ker & Downey** rep greets you at the gate of Ministro Pistarini Airport and ushers you through passport control before driving you into town. The wide, tree-lined boulevards introduce the sophisticated charm of this city that blends the best of European and Latin American culture. Check in to **La Mansion Presidential Suite** (starting at \$8,000 a night) on the 12th floor of the main tower at the recently renovated **Four Seasons Buenos Aires**, housed in a 1920s Belle Époque mansion in the heart of the Recoleta District, then stop for a traditional empanada at a local café. Get your bearings by taking a walk to **Recoleta Cemetery** to see the ornate graves of the who's who of Argentina, including the resting place of Eva "Evita" Peron. Dine at **Aramburu** restaurant in the San Telmo District for a meal by one of the top chefs of South America. Enjoy the new Four Seasons lounge, **Pony Line**, for a nightcap.

Four Seasons Buenos Aires: General Manager Tulio Hochkoepler, 54-11-4321-1602; tulio.hochkoepler@fourseasons.com; www.fourseasons.com/buenosaires

2 SHOPPING AND SPA-ING

After breakfast at Four Seasons' **Elena**, venture into the many shopping streets of Buenos Aires. Stop at one of the **Prüne** leather shops to get a fine crafted jacket, then go to **Laura O** for designer housewares, Argentinian textiles, and handmade plates. Continue to the neighborhood of Palermo, the center for young designers, stopping for lunch at **Olsen**, serving modern Scandinavian cuisine. Immerse yourself in the Argentinian tango by returning to the hotel and **Cielo Spa** at Four Seasons for **Porteño Tango** (\$210 for 80 minutes) where therapeutic techniques are choreographed to the beat of tango music, followed by dinner at **La Cabrera** for the very best cut of the country's famous grass-fed beef, and culminating with front-row seats at **Rojo Tango** in the **Faena Hotel**.

La Cabrera: Restaurant Manager Guido Bioloi, 54-11-4832-5754; info@parillalacabrera.com.ar; www.parillalacabrera.com.ar



LA MANSION PRESIDENTIAL SUITE / FOUR SEASONS BUENOS AIRES



PONY LINE LOUNGE /
FOUR SEASONS BUENOS AIRES



RESTAURANT FASANO /
FASANO LAS PIEDRAS



ELENA / FOUR SEASONS BUENOS AIRES

3 COWBOY COUNTRY

Take a short trip today to Uruguay, heading to the almost 1,200-acre gated estate of **Fasano Las Piedras**, in Punta del Este, a destination of the jet set since the 1960s. Move into your modern hilltop **Suite Bungalow** (starting at \$600 a night) of concrete and glass with a limestone bath and eucalyptus floors in the heart of gaucho country, then head to the **Fasano Las Piedras Spa** for a hot-stone foot massage with lavender oil (\$240 for 1 hour 30 minutes). Lunch at **Restaurant Fasano** and be wowed by its commanding views of the Uruguayan countryside. Spend the afternoon at a local beach then head to the glass-cube designed **Lounge Bar** for a sundowner cocktail before having dinner at **Las Piedras**, which features local produce.

*Fasano Piedras: VIP Reservations,
598-4267-0000;
puntadeeste@fasano.com.br;
www.laspiedrasfasano.com*

4 GIDDYAP

Take a sunrise swim in the spa's pool. After breakfast and a walk around the stylish grounds, saddle up for morning lessons at the **Medellin Polo Club's Polo School**, then purchase a pony, which can be delivered anywhere in the world. Plan a visit to see an international exhibition polo match that draws more than 5,000 spectators to watch some of the world's finest polo players. Return to the hotel for a true gaucho *asado* where a variety of meats are grilled outdoors on a *parrilla* when booked in advance.

*Medellin Polo Club: Owner Rodolfo A. Busquet, 54-11-4737-0641;
rbusquet@medellinpoloclub.com.ar;
www.medellinpoloclub.com.ar*

5 FROM BEACH TO BARRIO

Spend the day on the Atlantic Coast's deserted beaches of Rocha. Canoe the local river, then grab mountain bikes and pedal to one of the quaint seaside restaurants for lunch. On the way back, stop at Pueblo Garzon, a small village with the feel of the Wild West. Spend the afternoon in the main square, and visit the abandoned 19th-century train station. Stay for dinner at **El Garzon Restaurant**, the brainchild of Argentinian chef Francis Mallman, who utilizes an old Andean technique of cooking between two fires on iron griddles, delivering sizzling delicacies of local meat and vegetables.

*El Garzon: Chef Francis Mallman,
598-4410-2811; info@restaurantegarzon.com;
www.restaurantegarzon.com*

14 DAYS

6 CITY OF COOL

After breakfast, jet to São Paulo, then board a helicopter for a tour of one of the three largest cities in the world. Sip champagne during check-in at **Hotel Unique** and enjoy the jaw-dropping view of the Sao Paulo skyline from the **Oasis Suite** (\$10,200 a night), which includes a private elevator and rooftop Jacuzzi. Shop at **Amoa Konoya** in the Jardim America neighborhood and pick up indigenous art. Dine at **Skye Restaurant** where celebrity chef Emmanuel Bassoleil serves French classic dishes alongside Brazilian fusion. End with a nightcap at the hotel's **Skye Bar**, choosing among two-dozen specially crafted martinis.

Hotel Unique: General Manager Melissa Oliveira, 55-11-3055-4700; moliveira@hotelunique.com; www.hotelunique.com

8 SEASIDE BEAUTY

Take a two-hour helicopter ride from Unique Gardens over the Emerald Coast to Florianopolis on Santa Catarina Island, the retreat of jetsetters. Check into the 3,210-square-foot **Special Emerald Villa** (\$2,215 a night), one of the 25 villas of **Ponta dos Ganchos** located on the private peninsula. Spend the day relaxing by the villa's infinity pool, taking in ocean vistas from the private deck and glass-enclosed spa room. Before dinner in the resort's restaurant, try a tasting of the three varieties of cachaça—produced on the property—to get to know this the rum-like spirit and essence of a caipirinha.

Ponta dos Ganchos: General Manager Julio Jost, 55-48-3262-5000; julioj@pontadosganchos.com.br; www.pontadosganchos.com

10 PRISTINE NATURE

Helicopter to Florianopolis, where you can jump on a flight to the volcanic archipelago, national marine park, and UNESCO World Heritage site of Fernando de Noronha, about 220 miles off the Brazilian coast. Check in at **Pousada Maravilha** into a deluxe bungalow with a wooden Jacuzzi on the balcony and views of Sueste Bay (price available upon request). Take a dune buggy and explore some of the top beaches in Brazil—Baia dos Porcos, Baia do Sancho, or Baia dos Golfinhos. Return to the hotel for a sunset cruise around the island. Dinner is at the hotel's **Southeastern Restaurant**.

Pousada Maravilha: General Manager Felipe Alencar, 55-81-3619-0028; reservas@pousadamaravilha.com.br; www.pousadamaravilha.com.br



OASIS SUITE / HOTEL UNIQUE



OASIS SUITE / HOTEL UNIQUE



SPECIAL EMERALD VILLA / PONTA DOS GANCHOS



COSTÃO GOLF / PONTA DOS GANCHOS

7 FINDING AFRICAN SOUL IN BRAZIL

It's off to the heliport for a 15-minute copter ride to Unique's sister hotel in the hills north of the city. Check in to the 5,167-square-foot **Presidential Lodge** (\$2,875 a night) set in the lush gardens of the **Unique Garden Hotel & Spa**. Book one of the more than 80 treatments available for a late morning spa therapy. Spend an afternoon browsing through the acres of gardens and picking produce that will be served at dinner. Visit the animal rehab center to see exotic birds and wolves. Relax in your Jacuzzi before going to a private dinner in the garden gazebo.

Unique Garden Hotel & Spa: General Manager Claudia Jacintho, 55-11-4486-8700; claudia.marvics@uniquegarden.com.br; www.uniquegarden.com.br

9 FROM THE SEA TO THE GREENS

Kayak on the bay's calm waters after sunrise then return to a 10-course breakfast tasting menu. Golf with a Brazilian pro at **Costão Golf** on a nine-hole course that has views of both sea and mountains. Cruise around the island during the afternoon, enjoying the area's famed Santa Catarina oysters with champagne on your boat. You may spot a whale if the season is right (June through November). Dine under the stars on Ponta dos Ganchos' romantic private island, accessible via a candlelit bridge.

Costão Golf: Golf Director Ricardo D. Agüero, 55-48-3209-2105; reservas@costao.com.br; www.costaogolfclub.com.br

11 UNDER THE SEA

Today explore the emerald waters of this national marine park as you snorkel and dive among spinner dolphins, sharks, and sea turtles. After lunch, learn how this island paradise was once the home of prisoners, and visit the ruins of the former prison. Head into a local village for dinner at the home of a local fisherman, then venture to restaurant **Tom Marrom** to hear a *forro* band perform the local accordion-based folk dance music. Join the **Tamar Project** on the beach at night to monitor the spawning of sea turtles.

Tamar Project: Coordinator of Base Fernando de Noronha and PE Rafael Robles, 55-81-3619-1174; protamar@tamar.org.br; www.tamar.org.br

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14 DAYS

12 SILVER SCREEN LEGEND

Head to Rio de Janeiro to check-in at the legendary **Copacabana Palace Hotel**, a hangout of Hollywood and European royalty since it opened on Copacabana Beach in 1923. Relax on the private terrace of your sixth floor **Penthouse Ocean View Suite** with a caipirinha (about \$2,820 a night). Take a samba lesson at **Vila Isabel**, then spend the afternoon at the beach and enjoy an après-beach body treatment in the **Copacabana Palace Spa**. This evening try French cuisine at **Olympe** by chef Claude Troisgros, who uses Brazilian ingredients like acai in his cooking.

Copacabana Palace Hotel: Director

Andrea Natal, 55-21-2548-7070;

andrea.natal@copacabanapalace.com.br;

www.copacabanapalace.com



13 BEACH GLAM

Helicopter to Búzios, a once secluded sleepy beach area that became a magnet for the rich and famous after Brigitte Bardot visited here in the 1960s. Check into the **Matuete Villa #4**, located right on the beach of **Praia de Manguinhos** and tricked out with pool, spa, gym, tennis court, ocean-view pool, and enough room to sleep 26. Spend the day on the beach, then in the afternoon make your way to the nearby helipad for an aerial tour of Rio. Circle around Christ the Redeemer then land on Sugarloaf Mountain for a sunset toast and farewell dinner before an evening flight returns you to your villa in Búzios.

Matuete Villas General Manager

Fernanda Ortolan, 55-11-3071-4515;

villas@matuete.com;

www.matuetevillas.com

14 "ADEUS," BRAZIL

An early morning tender awaits to take you to the yacht upon which you sail around Búzios, exploring the best of its beaches: Azeda, Ferradura, and Geriba. An *al fresco* lunch is served on board as you cruise back to the villa, grabbing the last bits of sun before a jet set goodbye to South American glamour.

Ker & Downey: Vice President

David Jones, (281) 371-2500;

djones@kerdowney.com;

www.kerdowney.com