BEST OF BRAZIL

November 1–13, 2015

With Marguerite Itamar Harrison
Associate Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Smith College
On us on a journey to the captivating country of Brazil, November 1–13, 2015. Smith Travel and the MIT Alumni Travel Program will be co-sponsoring this program. From the shores of Rio de Janeiro, to the Baroque treasures of the colonial city of Salvador and on to the mighty Amazon River, Brazil is a complex nation of superlatives.

Accompanying you throughout the journey will be Professor Marguerite Itamar Harrison, Associate Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Smith College. Dr. Harrison herself a Brazilian will be able to provide valuable commentary on the culture and literature of Brazil.

In Rio de Janeiro, visit Copacabana and Ipanema, enjoy a train ride to see Rio’s most famous landmark, the Christ the Redeemer statue, embark on a schooner for a cruise around Guanabara Bay, and ascend Sugar Loaf via cable car for spectacular views of the city and its bays. Travel north to Salvador, where African and Brazilian culture blend in music, dance, food and folklore—making this colonial city “The Soul of Brazil”. Tour the Pelourinho or Old Town, a UNESCO world cultural center preserving colorful colonial buildings, gilded churches and cobblestoned streets. Finally, travel to Manaus, the Amazon’s largest city, once home to the rubber boom and now a major port. After exploring the historic center of Manaus and touring the National Institute of Amazonian Research, board the luxurious Iberostar Grand Amazon to travel down the mighty Amazon. Accompanied by naturalist guides navigate the tributaries of the Rio Negro looking for pink dolphins, scarlet macaws, caimans, monkeys, sloths and other wildlife.

An optional pre-trip extension is available to Iguaçu Falls, one of the natural wonders of the world and Itaipu Dam—the world’s largest dam in terms of energy generation.

Please be sure to contact us early to reserve your space on this remarkable journey. If you have any questions or need to make a reservation, please call the Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or email us at alumtrav@smith.edu.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel

Please visit alumnae.smith.edu/travel for details and updates on all of our programs.

Guest Faculty

Marguerite Itamar Harrison is an Associate Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Smith College, where she directs the Portuguese program. The daughter of a Brazilian mother from Fortaleza and North-American father, Harrison grew up in a bilingual household and spent most of her childhood and early teen years in Brazil before moving to the United States. She is equally fluent in Portuguese and English, and is an avid proponent of literary translation.

She earned an MA from the University of Texas at Austin and a PhD from Brown University, and specializes in the study of contemporary Brazilian literature and visual culture. Prior to Smith, she taught Portuguese at Brown and Harvard Universities. Her current scholarship addresses ways in which literature and art may contribute to raising social consciousness, particularly in terms of race, gender, and class. Harrison has edited a critical study of the work of Luiz Ruffato, one of Brazil’s most decorated contemporary authors, and is a Sherrerd Teaching Award-winning professor at Smith. Harrison’s passion is conveying her love of Brazil to her students.

Dr. John Southard

Also Joining us on the trip will be Dr. John Southard, Professor emeritus of geology at MIT. Dr. Southard will talk about the origin of the spectacular hill topography around Rio de Janeiro and about the mighty Amazon and its confluence with the Rio Negro.
What to Expect

This SMITH TRAVEL “Best of Brazil” program is a joint departure with MIT ALUMNI TRAVEL and is designed to give an inside look to those who are interested in learning about the history, culture, natural history and arts of Brazil. Accommodations range from 4-star superior hotels in Rio de Janeiro and Salvador to a deluxe, 5-star hotel in Manaus and a luxury river boat on the Amazon. This is a moderately active program. Travel is by regularly scheduled jet aircraft, motorcoach, schooner and riverboat. In Rio and Salvador typically the weather is warm to hot with mid-day temperatures from the 70s to the low 80s. The mean temperature in Manaus and the Amazon reaches in the mid-80s F during the day and can drop to 70º F at night. In the Amazon, rain is common throughout the entire year, but it rarely interferes with our planned tour activities. Our small group of participants from Smith College and MIT will join independent travelers on board the ship. Normal activities for the Amazon portion of the itinerary include leisurely jungle walks often over uneven terrain and river excursions aboard specially designed motor launches. On the optional pre-trip extension to Iguaçu Falls, the weather is tropical (75º–85º F) and rain is not uncommon. In order to enjoy this trip, a spirit of adventure, anticipation, and a desire to experience first-hand another culture, including exploring the rich colonial, natural history and modern heritage of Brazil are musts. Flexibility is essential, since local conditions may require alterations in schedule.

Optional Pre-Trip Extension:

Iguaçu Falls & the Itaipu Dam October 28–November 2, 2015

Roaring out of the jungle and hurtling over cliffs between Brazil and Argentina, the Iguaçu Falls are one of the natural wonders of the world. Three nights at accommodations within the national park give us exclusive access to the falls both in the evening and at dawn when the park is closed. Ample time is afforded to relax and see the cataracts surrounded by luxuriant rain forest, beautiful exotic birds (toucans, caracas, and parrots), and intriguing bromeliads and butterflies. Walk along the upper and lower trails for close-up views of the many different falls. Exploration from the Argentinean side is thrilling. Tour the Itaipu Dam including the central control room where technicians monitor energy production for Brazil and Paraguay. Explore the majestic concrete cathedrals which make up this 196 meter high dam and see the turbine shaft in operation which alone can generate enough power for 2.5 million homes!

At the end of the extension, fly to Rio and overnight there to enjoy the morning in the marvelous city before meeting up with arriving passengers for a city tour.

Extension includes: three-night’s accommodations in the Belmond Hotel located alongside the falls in the national park and one night in Rio; buffet breakfast every day, two lunches; entrance fees; transfers; and trip leadership by an professional English-speaking guide.

Extension does not include: Meals not specified in the itinerary; food and beverages not part of the included meal; The visit to the Argentinean side of the falls requires a reciprocity fee (approx. $161) which must be purchased before your departure. Airfare from São Paulo to Iguaçu and Iguaçu to Rio is additional and is quoted separately.
Iberostar Grand Amazon

A 5-star vessel built specifically to travel on the Amazon River, the *Iberostar Grand Amazon* comes equipped with all the facilities needed for comfortable cruising including an elevator between decks. It has 74 air-conditioned cabins distributed between three deck levels each with private bathrooms and hot-water showers. The Acara deck is located at the topmost of the three decks, followed by the Tambaqui deck in the middle of the ship and the Mandi deck at the bottommost of the ship. All cabins have outside views with a private balcony area and are of the same size (approximately 248 square feet), except the two larger suites (available upon request only). Each cabin has two twin beds or a king-size bed with a night stand next to each bed, hair dryer, and a closed-circuit TV. Cabin closets are large with two sections. The vessel also has two swimming pools, a Jacuzzi and a fitness center for recreation, lecture area, bar, lounge, library and gift shop, plus amenities such as laundry service. The ship’s restaurants serve a selection of Brazilian and international dishes, including many delicious Amazon River fish and exotic tropical fruits. Enjoy complimentary wine and cocktails throughout the day and evening as you dine in the restaurants or relax at the terrace pool bar or at the night club bar. Land and water excursions are included and are made using aluminum launches with twin 240-horsepower motors, allowing you to quickly get to any place of interest. The ship has a conscientious and personable crew and expert naturalist guides to accompany passengers on excursions.
**ITINERARY**

**Sunday, November 1**

**USA / RIO DE JANEIRO**

Depart on an overnight flight to São Paulo with a connection to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Overnight flight (Meals aloft)

**Monday, November 2**

**RIO DE JANEIRO**

Upon arrival in Rio this morning, transfer to the hotel. A city tour will provide an introduction to this colorful capital city, once a Portuguese outpost on the edge of the New World and now a thriving major metropolis. Drive along the world-famous beaches of Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon, circling the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon and proceeding to the Maracanã, one of the world’s largest stadiums. After lunch visit the famed Sugar Loaf Mountain which affords spectacular views of the city and its bays. We’ll gather this evening for a festive reception and welcome dinner.

*Porto Bay Rio Internacional* (B, L, D)

**Tuesday, November 3**

**RIO DE JANEIRO**

This morning depart on a train ride through a lush forest to Corcovado to see Rio’s most famous landmark, the Christ the Redeemer statue. Continue to the Botanical Garden to view its 6,000 species of tropical and subtropical plants and trees. Arrangements are being made for a meeting with local Smith and MIT alumnae/i this evening.

*Porto Bay Rio Internacional* (B, L)

**Wednesday, November 4**

**RIO DE JANEIRO**

This morning explore Rio’s historical downtown, including the baroque São Bento Monastery, the modern Metropolitan Cathedral and Praça XV de Novembro, where Brazil declared its independence from Portugal. After lunch at the historical Confeitaria Colombo, embark on a schooner for a cruise around Guanabara Bay, providing a panorama of many of Rio’s islands, beaches and neighborhoods. From the boat take in wonderful views of Sugar Loaf Mountain, the Nossa Senhora da Boa Viagem church, the Museum of Contemporary Art, designed by Oscar Niemeyer, and the impressive Rio-Niteroi Bridge Museum.

*Porto Bay Rio Internacional* (B, L, D)

**Thursday, November 5**

**RIO DE JANEIRO / SALVADOR**

Upon an early breakfast we depart on a morning flight to Salvador, the capital of Bahia, and for over 200 years (until 1763) the capital of Brazil. Here African and Brazilian cultures blend in music, dance, dress, food, and folklore, making this colonial city “the Soul of Brazil.”

*Pestana Bahia* (B, D)

**Friday, November 6**

**SALVADOR**

Salvador is the city with the country’s oldest churches, its most important colonial architecture, and its largest collection of sacred art. This morning tour the Pelourinho or Old Town, a UNESCO treasure boasting the largest and best-preserved complex of colonial architecture in the Americas. Visit the famous Bonfim Church, the Lacera Elevator, a landmark of the city, and the São Francisco Church, the most ornate church in the Americas. Later visit the Afro-Brazilian Museum, which has a fine collection of Orixás (deities) and ceremonial art and clothing. Enjoy a special night tour of Salvador and witness an authentic folkloric performance based on Afro-Brazilian culture.

*Pestana Bahia* (B, L, D)

**Saturday, November 7**

**SALVADOR**

Explore the lower part of the city, including the quiet waters of Itapagipe Bay where the first holiday residences were built. Visit the iconic Igreja de Nosso Senhor do Bonfim (Church of our Lord of Bonfim), inaugurated in 1754 and which marks a crossroads between the Christian and native African religions. Continue with a stop at the Monte Serrat Fort. Constructed in 1587, the fort provides a breathtaking panoramic view of “All Saints Bay.” Cross the suburbs that surround the bay, arrive at the heart of the inner-city, where the largest artisan market is located: the famous Mercado Modelo. Housed in the old customs building, the market provides a focal point for the art and handicrafts of Bahia and the Northeast. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

*Pestana Bahia* (B, L)

**Sunday, November 8**

**SALVADOR / MANAUS**

Enjoy a morning at leisure followed by an early afternoon flight to Manaus, the capital of the state of Amazonas and gateway to the upper Amazon arriving in the late evening. Upon our arrival in Manaus, transfer to the hotel.

*Tropical Hotel Manaus* (B, D)

**Monday, November 9**

**MANAUS / IBEROSTAR GRAND AMAZON**

Begin your exploration of Manaus this morning with a visit the National Amazonian Research Institute, where we will meet with scientists to learn about their research and see a collection of manatees, fresh water dolphins, and other species. After lunch visit the opulent Teatro Amazonas Opera House with its unusual mixture of art nouveau, neoclassical, and Baroque architecture. In the late afternoon embark on the *Iberostar Grand Amazon*, your home for the next four nights for the cruise along the Rio Negro. This evening, gather for a cocktail party and Captain’s welcome dinner.

*Iberostar Grand Amazon* (B, L, D)

**Tuesday, November 10**

**JARAQUI IGARAPÉS / TRÊS BOCAS**

Arrive in the Jaraqui Igarapés region. Go for a hike along trails surrounded
by palms and tropical trees used by the locals for the construction of houses as well as medicine. Proceed to the Três Bocas region. Embark on a boat tour of the areas’ islands which are part of the second largest fresh water archipelago. This evening, accompany the onboard naturalist on a caiman spotting cruise.

_**Iberostar Grand Amazon** (B, L, D)

**Wednesday, November 11**

**NOVO AIRAO / RIO CUIEIRAS**

Arrive in Novo Airao this morning. After breakfast, embark on a motor launch trip along the Trincherá Igarapé (Creek) in hopes of seeing the friendly, intelligent pink river dolphins. After lunch onboard arrive at Rio Cuieiras. Go ashore this afternoon to learn more about the Amazon Rainforest and its inhabitants and visit the local Cambebas Community. Tour the local school, clinic, and flour mill.

_**Iberostar Grand Amazon** (B, L, D)

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**Thursday, November 12**

**RIO ARIAU / TUPE**

Take an early morning boat ride in the region of Rio Ariaú, where birds can be seen as well as beautiful landscapes lit by sunrise. Look for sloths, monkeys and tropical birds. Later this morning bait your hooks to try to catch one of Amazonia’s fearsome piranhas (and other fish as well). Venture on to the Tupe region with opportunities to swim in the Rio Negro. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner.

_**Iberostar Grand Amazon** (B, L, D)

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**Friday, November 13**

**DISEMBARK / MANAUS / USA**

Gather on the deck bright and early this morning to observe the phenomenon known as “encontro das aguas,” or the meeting of the waters, as the black waters of the Rio Negro and the muddy waters of the river Solimões merge to form the main Amazon River. We’ll disembark in Manaus after breakfast and we will transfer to the airport for the flight back to the USA. (B)

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### Program Costs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decks Aboard</th>
<th>Land/Cruise Rates (double occupancy, per person)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mandi Deck</td>
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**SAMPLE AIRFARE COACH CLASS** ............................................. **$1,285**

Roundtrip from Miami to Rio de Janeiro and return from Manaus to Miami as of January 1, 2015 and is subject to change.

**IGUAÇU FALLS OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION** .......................... **$1,990**

October 28–November 2, 2015

(Per person based on double occupancy)

Single supplement for the extension is $890. Rates are based on a minimum of 8 guests. Flights from Sao Paulo to Iguazu Falls and Iguazu Falls to Rio are not included in the extension and are approximately $295 and is subject to change.

_Belmond Hotel Das Cataratas and Porto Bay Rio International_

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT:** To reserve a space on this tour, please mail authorization of a credit card payment or a check made payable to “Royal Adventures” for $1,000 per person for the main program and $200 per person for the optional Iguazu Falls extension with a completed reservation form to: Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm St., Northampton, MA 01063. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is **July 31, 2015** and must be paid by check. Royal Adventures CST #2009579-40.

**PROGRAM COST INCLUDES:** 4 and 5-star accommodations; meals as specified in the itinerary; two on-tour flights, Rio to Salvador and Salvador to Manaus (increases in the on-tour airfare after the initial pricing of this program are not included*); lecture series; all land and water transportation; four-night Amazon River cruise aboard the _Iberostar Grand Amazon_ including an open bar (drinks must be consumed in the bar/lounge areas or in the restaurants aboard the ship); services of a professional tour director throughout the program and professional English speaking Brazilian guides at all locations; bottled water on daily excursions; airport transfers for group flights; domestic airport departure taxes; entrance fees; baggage handling; basic gratuities to local guides and drivers on land; pre-departure information; customized luggage tags and name tags; coordination and administration of the tour. *The cost of the land program includes the on-tour flights at a maximum cost of $425 per person. Any increases in the on-tour airfare, airport taxes or security fees imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included and will be passed on to participants .

**PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:** U.S. Domestic and international airfare; passport fees; Brazilian visa fees; reciprocity fee into Argentina (approx. $161 required to see the Argentinean side of Iguazu Falls on the optional pre-trip extension); meals not specified in the itinerary as included, alcoholic beverages outside of the alcoholic beverages offered aboard the _Iberostar Grand Amazon_ personal items such as laundry, fax and phone calls; room service; excess baggage charges; individual transfers; snacks; personal and trip cancellation insurance. Tip to the tour director is at passengers’ discretion (suggested US$10-$15 per person per day). Tip to the crew of the _Iberostar Grand Amazon_ (suggested US $18 per person per night). Immunizations and in the event of sickness or a medical emergency medical expenses, travel insurance, optional extension or deviations from the scheduled tour.
Enclosed is a deposit for ________ ($1,000 deposit per person, plus $200 for the Iguazu Falls pre-trip extension, if applicable) to hold _____ place(s) on the Best of Brazil journey, November 1–13, 2015. Final Payment is due July 31, 2015.

Name* _________________________________ Smith Class Year __________
Name* _________________________________ Smith Class Year __________
* All names should be as they appear on passport.
Address: ______________________________ State ___ Zip ______
Telephone: ______________________________

Day (___) ________________________________
Evening (___) ____________________________

E-mail _________________________________

Please indicate first and second cabin preference for Iberostar Grand Amazon by marking 1 or 2 next to the cabin deck categories below:

___ Mandi Deck  ___ Tambaqui Deck ___ Acara Deck  ___ Royal Suite

☐ I wish to have a single accommodation; or
☐ I will share accommodations with: __________________________

☐ I wish to join the optional Iguazu Falls pre-trip extension at an additional deposit of $200 per person.

We will take care of our own international flight arrangements to Brazil (please check your itinerary with Royal Adventures prior to booking).
Please make round-trip flight arrangements from __________________________ to Brazil.

Please charge my deposit of $1,000 per person to:
☐ MasterCard  ☐ Visa  ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover

Card # _____________________________ Exp. Date ___ / ____ Sec Code ___

To reserve a space please call (800) 225-2029 or send, email or fax this from with deposit check payable to “Royal Adventures” or credit card authorization to:

Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations
33 Elm St., Northampton, MA 01063
Fax: (413) 585-2015
Email: alumtrav@smith.edu

I/we have carefully read the Program Costs, Terms and Conditions, and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

Signature __________________________ Date _________
Signature __________________________ Date _________

Terms and Conditions

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations must be made in writing. Refunds, less a cancellation fee of $500 per person, are made if we are notified in writing on or before July 31, 2015. No refunds will be made after July 31, 2015. No refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for travel insurance will be available upon confirmation and with the final payment invoice. Neither Smith College nor Royal Adventures accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Smith Travel at 800-225-2029 or Email: alumtrav@smith.edu or Royal Adventures (925) 820-6260 or 800-453-4754.

RESPONSIBILITY: Royal Adventures, its owners and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services and transportation are offered or provided. Smith College and Royal Adventures reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour participants. They reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, airfare, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. Neither Smith College nor Royal Adventures accept the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.
BEST OF BRAZIL
November 1–13, 2015

Highlights

Stroll the famous COPACABANA and IPANEMA BEACHES in Rio!

Admire the famous Christ the Redeemer statue at CORCOVADO.

Take a cable car to the top of SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN for spectacular views of Rio.

Embark a schooner for a cruise of Rio’s GUANABARA BAY.

Journey to SALVADOR, “The Soul of Brazil.”

Visit the colonial town of Salvador, PELOURINHO, a UNESCO world cultural center.

Explore the mighty AMAZON RIVER and its amazing wildlife aboard the luxurious riverboat, the Iberostar Grand Amazon.

Join a pre-trip extension to see the mighty IGUAÇU FALLS and ITAIPU DAM.