

## Iguazu Falls Extension Ideas:

Around the Iguazu area you can get away from the mass tourism & experience some wonderful & unique lodges / estancias. 2 that we recommend are Yacutinga Jungle Lodge & Estancia Rincón del Socorro.

### Yacutinga Lodge

Yacutinga Lodge and its Wildlife Refuge are located on the Upper Iguazú River, on the northeastern extreme of Argentina, only 60 km away from Iguazú Falls. Iguazú National Park, in the northernmost area of the province of Misiones, is a region of wide rivers, reddish clay soil, mild (subtropical) weather, and mainly of luxuriant Forests with bright green colors, rich in giant old trees. These Conservation areas located in the border between Argentina and Brazil have pristine cores of Subtropical forest, and bear more than 2,000 species of identified vascular plants and more than 400 species of birds, mammals and reptiles.

Access to Yacutinga Lodge from the cities of Foz do Iguazú or Puerto Iguazú is easy, since there are airports in both cities. Once you get to the lodge, you will feel surrounded by the sounds and details of Misiones Forest.

- **Yacutinga Lodge** has been designed to offer the highest comfort possible at the heart of Misiones Forest. Yacutinga Lodge is the perfect retreat away from the crowds around Iguazu & experience a wonderful jungle lodge – so different to the Iguazu area. The lodge has 20 cabins & guided tours are included within your stay. Only 4 hectares out of the 570-hectare area of the property have been used to build this unprecedented ecotourism complex in Argentina. During the construction process special care has been taken to minimize negative impacts on nature. This lodge and its surrounding nature reserve are part of a sustainable eco-project which protects the sub-tropical rainforest. It offers its visitors an exciting ecological experience whilst staying in its comfortable lodgings. Excursions are focused on providing guests with an understanding of the area by walking through nature trails, floating down the river on a raft or relaxing in the grounds listening to the birdsong.

## ESTEROS DEL IBERÁ...

The Iberá Marshlands (in Spanish, Esteros del Iberá, From Guaraní *y berá* “sparkling water”) is one of the largest natural reserves in Argentina, with sceneries of unique beauty and a wide variety of interesting wildlife to discover. Twice the size of the Florida Everglades, Iberá is the second-largest wetland in South America after Pantanal in Brazil and one of the most important fresh water reservoirs in the continent. The area is of particular interest to naturalists and birdwatchers but even city-dwellers are captured by the unspoiled beauty of the wetlands.

Located in the province of Corrientes, the Esteros are mix of swamps, bogs, stagnant lakes, lagoons, natural slough and courses of water of pluvial origin with a total area of between 15,000 and 20,000 Km<sup>2</sup>.

At Iberá, the climate is warm and humid. Vegetation is abundant and grows on land and in or around shallow water in such huge masses that the entangled reeds often help to build floating fertile rafts with new vegetations growing on top of them. Myriads of different flowers attract all sort of insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians as well as mammals.

The Natural Reserve hosts a large biodiversity, including four species that have been declared “provincial natural monuments”: the neo-tropical river otter, the maned wolf, the pampas deer, and the marsh deer. It is also home to the two Argentine species of alligator, The Yacaré caiman (Yacaré negro) and the broad snouted caiman (Yacaré overo), as well as the capybara (Carpincho - the world’s largest rodent) and about 350 bird species.

The dorado, an incredible game fish, called “el tigre del río” (river tiger) by Argentine fishermen, known to be so aggressive that it makes monster trout from Patagonia seem docile by comparison, swim the waters of Iberá.

Suggested accommodation in Esteros del Iberá

- **Estancia Rincón del Socorro** is a small, refined eco-tourist hotel in the ranch’s recycled main house. There are six rooms in the main house and three small bungalows within 50 meters of it, all with private bathrooms and one with a sitting room and a small kitchenette. The main house has a large indoor living room, a screened veranda living room, a large indoor dining room, a terrace dining area, and a children’s game room. On the grounds are a swimming pool, a screened barbecue house, and a barn with tack room. Meals are predominantly prepared with organic fruit and vegetables, most from our kitchen garden. Meat is all free-range. The hostería is equipped with a professional kitchen and offers a full bar service. They specialize in fine organic cuisine and honour the Argentine barbecue tradition in our well known barbeque dining area with a wide variety of free range meat, grilled vegetables, good Argentine wines, homemade breads and special deserts. When the weather is good, lunch and dinner can be served outdoors. Activities that can be enjoyed here are Bird Watching, Horseback riding, boat trips, nature walks & fly fishing.