BEST OF BRAZIL
November 1–13, 2015

With Dr. John Southard Professor Emeritus of Geology
Dear MIT Alumni & Friends:

JOIN US ON A JOURNEY TO THE CAPTIVATING COUNTRY OF BRAZIL
NOVEMBER 1–13, 2015.

Travel from Rio de Janeiro, to the colonial city of Salvador and on to the mighty Amazon River.

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. Journey 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. Board the Iberostar Grand Amazon and travel up the mighty Amazon. Navigate the tributaries of the Rio Negro looking for pink dolphins, scarlet macaws, caimans, monkeys, sloths and other wildlife.

Accompanying you throughout the journey will be MIT Professor Emeritus of Geology John B. Southard ’60. Professor Southard’s talks will focus on the origin of the spectacular hilly topography around Rio de Janeiro and the mighty Amazon and its confluence with the Rio Negro. We are sharing this program with alumnae and guests of Smith College. Smith Professor Marguerite Itamar Harrison, associate professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, will join us as well. Dr. Harrison, herself a Brazilian, will provide commentary on the culture and literature of Brazil. We will travel as a small group of less than 30 participants in Rio, Mantanzas, and Salvador; while cruising we will join independent travelers on the Iberostar Grand Amazon which holds 140 travelers.

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. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please be sure to contact us early to reserve your space on this enriching educational opportunity. If you have any questions or need to make a reservation, please call the MIT Alumni Travel Program at 800-992-6749, or email us at compass@mit.edu.

Sincerely

Melissa Gresh
Director, MIT Alumni Travel Program

Please visit alum.mit.edu/travel for details and updates on all of our programs.

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Dr. John Southard received his undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1960 and his doctorate in geology from Harvard University in 1966. After a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology, he joined the faculty at MIT, where he is currently professor of geology, emeritus. He was awarded the MIT School of Science teaching prize in 1989 and was one of the first cohorts of MacVicar Fellows at MIT, in recognition of excellence in undergraduate teaching. Dr. Southard has taught numerous undergraduate courses in introductory geology, sedimentary geology, field geology, and environmental earth science both at MIT and in Harvard’s adult education program. His research interests focus on the physical processes in various natural environments and the interpretation of depositional environments of ancient sedimentary rocks. During the trip he will talk about the origin of the spectacular hilly topography around Rio de Janeiro and about the mighty Amazon and its confluence with the Rio Negro.

“The Amazon is by far the largest river on Earth. Even a thousand miles upstream from its mouth it’s larger than our own Mississippi at its mouth in the Gulf. The confluence of one of the Amazon’s largest tributaries, the Rio Negro, with its clear, deep black waters, and the Amazon, with its muddy, turbid waters, has been a source of fascination for me for a long time. Together we will inspect these waters firsthand.”

—John Southard ’60
What To Expect

This trip 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 70ºF 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 MIT and Smith College 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 Iguacu Falls, the weather is tropical (75º–85ºF) and rain is not uncommon. In order to enjoy this trip, a spirit of adventure, anticipation, and a desire to experience another culture first-hand, 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:
Iguacu Falls & the Itaipu Dam October 28–November 2, 2015

Roaring out of the jungle and hurtling over cliffs between Brazil and Argentina, the Iguacu 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 mentioned above as being included; food and beverages not part of the included meals; The visit to the Argentinean side of the falls requires a reciprocity fee (approx. $161) which must be purchased before your departure. Airfare from Sao Paulo to Iguacu and Iguacu to Rio is additional and is quoted separately (estimated at $295 and subject to change).
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. An afternoon 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 welcome dinner and reception.  
*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. 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 Lacera Elevator, a landmark of the city, and the São Francisco Church, the most ornate church in the Americas. Later tour 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)

**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-Niterói Bridge Museum.  
*Porto Bay Rio Internacional* (B, L, D)

**Thursday, November 5**

**RIO DE JANEIRO / SALVADOR**
After an early breakfast, 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 Lacera Elevator, a landmark of the city, and the São Francisco Church, the most ornate church in the Americas. Later tour 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.” Crossing 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, D)

**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 to 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, neo-classical, 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 Captain’s welcome dinner and cocktail party.  
*Iberostar Grand Amazon* (B, L, D)

**Tuesday, November 10**

**JARAQUI IGRAPÉS / TRÊS BOCAS**
Arrive in the Jaraqui Igarapés region. Morning 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 ARIAO / RIO CUIEIRAS**

Arrive in Novo Airao this morning. After breakfast, embark on a motor launch trip along the Trinchera 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)

**Thursday, November 12**

**RIO ARIAÚ / TUPÉ**

Early morning boat ride in the region of Rio Ariaú, where birds can be seen as well as a 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)

**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. Disembark in Manaus after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the flight back to the USA. (B)
BEST OF BRAZIL  
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Enclosed is a deposit for ________ ($1,000 deposit per person, plus $200 for the Iguacu 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* ____________________________ MIT Affiliation ________

Name* ____________________________ MIT Affiliation ________

* All names should be as they appear on passport.

Address: ____________________________________________

City __________________ State _____ Zip ________________

Telephone: __________________________________________

Day (___) __________________________ Evenings (___) _____________

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:


☐ I wish to have a single accommodation; or

☐ I will share accommodations with: __________________________

☐ I wish to join the optional Iguacu 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

Card # ______________________ Exp. Date ___ / ___ Sec Code ______

To reserve a space please call MIT at 800-992-6749 or send, email or fax this form with deposit check payable to “Royal Adventures” or credit card authorization to:

MIT Alumni Travel Program
600 Memorial Drive, W98-2nd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139-4822

FAX 617-258-6211

Email compass@mit.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. I understand that I will need to sign a liability release prior to the program departure.

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. There are 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 in voice. Neither the MIT Alumni Travel Program 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.

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Highlights

Attend LECTURES on the people, history, culture, and natural setting of Brazil.

Marvel at the famous Christ the Redeemer statue at CORCOVADO.

Catch 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.