

SANTARÉM, BRAZIL

ARRIVE: MONDAY 29 DECEMBER 0800
DEPART: MONDAY 29 DECEMBER 1800
ON-SHIP TIME: MONDAY 29 DECEMBER 1700

SNT01 MAICA – PORTRAIT OF THE AMAZON REGION (0800-1200 Monday, 29 December) **Minimum 30/Maximum 400 (PRICE: \$67.00)**

From the dock, board a regional boat and float downstream toward the Meeting of the Waters. An unusual phenomenon, this is the area where the mighty Amazon and Tapajós Rivers come together. Continue to the Maica Area, a natural outlet of the Amazon River. The area is a much smaller stream than the Amazon and makes it easier to see the sights while the boat meanders through the flood plain. The beautiful landscape showcases the simple yet rich way of life in the Amazon Basin. Bird watching is one of the highlights of this tour as many different species of birds are easily spotted and identified. If you are lucky, you may spot the fresh water dolphins that frequent these waters. Before returning to Santarém, try your luck at piranha fishing or just relax on board and listen to the soothing sounds of the forest.



SNT02 SANTARÉM CITY TOUR (0800-1230 Monday, 29 December) Minimum 30/Maximum 300 **(PRICE: \$49.00)**



Depart the pier of *Alter do Chão* and drive to Santarém, passing first the Manioc Flour House. At *Casa de Farinha* you will see rubber trees, Brazil nut trees and shells, tropical fruit demonstrations, and how the local people make *farinha*, one of the most important foods in the Amazon Region. You will also see how they produce tapioca. Stop at a local market and browse the colorful fruits and food. Next, visit the Cathedral; from there you can ride the bus or walk with your guide to the next stop – Fisherman's Square. Enjoy a 20-minute break for shopping or to use the restroom facilities. Return to *Alter do Chão*, considered

Santarém's weekend resort area. This village of approximately 2,000 inhabitants is located on the clear Tapajós River adorned with beautiful white-sand beaches. In *Alter do Chão*, enjoy an authentic folkloric show with dances and costumes of the region before returning to the ship.

SNT03 FLORESTA DO TAPAJOS NATURE RESERVE (0800-1300 Monday, 29 December) **Minimum 30/Maximum 100 (PRICE: \$73.00)**

Travel to *Floresta do Tapajos* Nature Reserve, one of the best preserved Amazonian forests and also known for its enormous trees. During the 90-minute drive from Santarém, pass verdant soya and rice fields. Once in the nature reserve, travel an additional 20 minutes before reaching the ranger station of IBAMA, the Federal Institute for the Protection of Environment. Trek through the jungle with your specially-trained jungle guides (1 ½ - 2 hours). You will have the opportunity to see many plants used in local medicine, all kind of vines and of course, view the renowned gigantic trees. After the refreshing trek, board the bus for your return to Santarém.

SNT04 BELTERRA – HENRY FORD’S AMAZON DREAM (0800-1300 Monday, 29 December)
Minimum 30/ Maximum 100 (PRICE: \$53.00)

Belterra and *Fordlândia* remain bizarre reminders that many locals believe will eventually return to the unyielding jungle that surrounds them. On the advice of a local entrepreneur who conveniently owned the land, Henry Ford built an American-style town 80 miles south of Santarém during the 1920s. The town, called *Fordlândia*, included a rubber plantation. The idea was to run this plantation as a viable alternative to Asian production. Unfortunately, climatic conditions quickly undermined the project and Ford was forced to abandon the plantation. The groves are now operated by the Brazilian government. After *Fordlândia* failed, a new operation was started at *Belterra*. Even though the ground was higher and could be reached via river year round, the new venture was no more successful than the original. Though the plant is still in operation, Ford sold his interest at the end of WWII.

Travel by bus to *Belterra* (approximately 90-minutes). Visit this American-style city, the library and a rubber plantation before returning to the ship.

SNT05 ALTER DO CHÃO (0800-1600 Monday, 29 December) Minimum 100/Maximum200
(PRICE: \$67.00)

Travel west of Santarém to *Alter do Chão*, 30 kilometers from Santarém. Drive through *terra firma* forest, passing by small villages and several creeks that cut through the forest. Midway, stop and visit a local family and learn about their simple way of life in the Amazonian hinterland. The men will demonstrate the tapping of rubber trees and the process of smoking the latex to produce rubber. The women will show some of their duties like flour production from *manioc* (yucca root). They will show you different regional fruits and their utility. If you happen to visit the family on a school holiday, you might see their children playing with their pets – animals they found in the jungle. Enjoy a short walk around the village and view the huge Brazil nut trees and their fruits.



After visiting the local family, continue to *Alter do Chão*, a small but famous village on the white-sandy beaches of the Tapajós River. *Alter do Chão* is considered a resort area; residents of Santarém spend their weekends here. There are many small restaurants and hotels as well as curio shops selling local handicrafts. Once at *Alter do Chão*, enjoy some free time. Eat a fabulous meal in a nearby restaurant (on your own), stroll along the beach, rent a row boat and travel to the nearby island or just simply enjoy a delicious drink in the shade of a huge mango tree. Please note: If you wish to enjoy the refreshing clear water of the Tapajós River, please bring your swimsuit. Protection from the sun and comfortable walking shoes are recommended.