

IGUAZÚ FALLS (ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL)

The spectacular Iguazú Falls are part of the Iguazu River, in the border region between Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. In the language of the Guaraní, an Indigenous population group in South America, Iguazú means “big water.” This natural wonder was caused by a huge volcanic eruption thousands of years ago. The falls are considered one of the seven natural wonders of the world and are a Unesco World Heritage site. They consist of 275 waterfalls, including Garganta del Diablo, the highest of them all, which has a drop of 269 feet (82 meters).



The Devil's Throat

Garganta del Diablo translates as Devil's Throat—a fitting name, as according to Guaraní legend, an angry snake god created this waterfall after his betrothed had fled with another man in a canoe. Out of anger, he cut a gorge in the river, the Devil's Mouth, and turned the girl into a rock and her lover into a tree.



The sooty swift

This bird is native to the region and is considered a symbol of the Iguazú Falls. It is the only animal that builds its nest behind the falls. To do so, it flies through the falling water to the other side.



Nighttime rainbows

On some nights, the full moon casts its light through the steam of the Iguazú Falls and you can see beautiful rainbows—even in the middle of the night! Combined with the surrounding nocturnal sounds and the roar of the waterfalls, seeing one is said by locals to be an unforgettable experience.

This fascinating and unique water world is home to hundreds of bird species, many mammal species, and a large variety of insects.



The Iguazú National Park is home to endangered animals such as the tapir and anteater. Both have beautiful and distinctive noses and a preference for solitude. While the anteater can sleep up to 15 hours a day, the tapir devotes itself to scattering the seeds of the fruits it eats via its droppings. They are also known as “gardeners,” as this is how they spread the plants in the surrounding area.



Other animal inhabitants

Turtles and herons also live around the Iguazú Falls. Both species are sensitive animals. It is important to protect the area so that they can continue to live here.