

# ATLANTIC FOREST GREAT RESERVE

São Paulo - Paraná - Santa Catarina



Atlantic Forest



Barra do Arapira



Paraná peak



Rafting



Mãe Catira River



Mountain bike

## THE ATLANTIC FOREST: A NATURAL AND CULTURAL SPECTACLE

The Atlantic Forest is one of the most exuberant tropical forests in the world. Within its territory, this biome holds natural and cultural treasures, some of Brazil's largest cities, and over 120 million inhabitants. Brazilian history was built in the Atlantic Forest which has also witnessed the country's development. However, most of the landscapes have been transformed by human activities, and natural resources have been intensively explored. All this has affected the environmental balance and the quality of life of the Atlantic Forest inhabitants. The good news is that we can still find a significant portion of well-preserved forest! Along the coast of São Paulo, Paraná and Santa Catarina states is located the largest remnant of this biome, called the Atlantic Forest Great Reserve. This 2.7-million-hectares natural area is home to a

huge diversity of wildlife, mountains, caves, waterfalls, bays, mangroves and beaches, as well as local communities. It is up to us to protect this treasure from the risk of disappearance.

The economic development in this region has in the Full Nature framework its greatest source. The Atlantic Forest is a Brazilian natural heritage and must be valued, recognized and preserved by all of us!



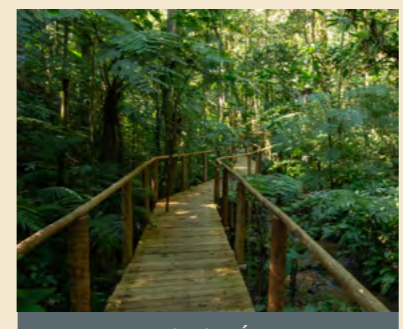
Caíçara canoe

## PROTECTED AREAS AND FULL NATURE

The Full Nature framework considers the ecological integrity and the peaceful coexistence between society and the natural environments as the basis for a green and restorative economy, especially in isolated and disadvantaged rural areas. Nature conservation should not seem as an alternative to development, but rather as an economic opportunity to generate goods and services with high added value. Natural and cultural attractions create opportunities for employment and income generation in particular for young people who have the opportunity to stay in their hometowns.

The Atlantic Forest Great Reserve has several Public and Private Protected Areas accounting for 1/3 of its territory. Additionally, it is internationally recognized as a Biosphere Reserve and a UNESCO Natural Heritage Centre. The region receives thousands of visitors

every year and new businesses have been established, especially those who benefit and collaborate with the conservation of the local natural, cultural and historical heritage. In this territory, the Full Nature framework is a great opportunity, which guarantees a sustainable, equitable and long-term development and that protected areas are an economic asset for society as a whole.



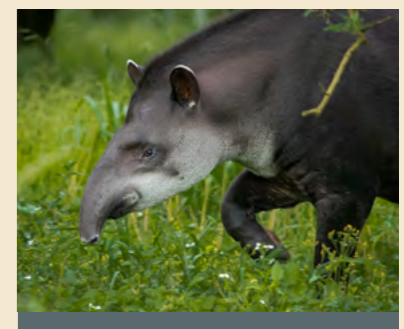
Legado das Águas

## MOUNTAINS AND FOREST

The Atlantic Forest express its exuberance in different landscapes: the prehistoric Araucaria Forest, mountains and rivers, the coastal plain and the sea. There are over 15,000 species of plants and more than 2,000 species of vertebrates within its territory. The Atlantic Forest is considered among the world's most biodiverse biomes.

The Atlantic Forest Great Reserve encompasses a long stretch of the Serra do Mar mountain ranges. Not surprisingly, this rugged topography was one of the factors that allowed the maintenance of this well preserved natural area harboring many endangered species. Throughout the year, the generous blooming of the Brazilian firetree (*Schizolobium parahyba*), the guaricica tree (*Vochysia bifalcata*) and the purple glory tree (*Tibouchina granulosa*) bring color and beauty to the forest. Alongside, multicolored pollinators guarantee

the existence of fruits to feed the fauna. The rain is abundant, and thousands of rivers generated in the cradle of this great forest carve the mountains and give us beautiful waterfalls. A collection of peaks and hills challenges the climbers, professionals or amateurs, who have the privilege of enjoying the altitude fields, the rocks and the meanders of the bays.



Tapir



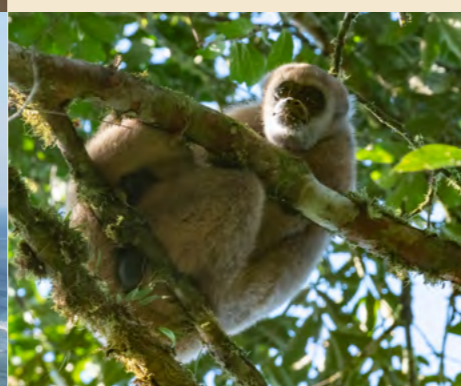
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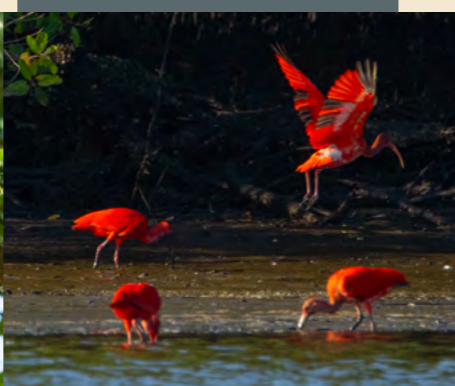
Guiana dolphin



Ilha do Mel



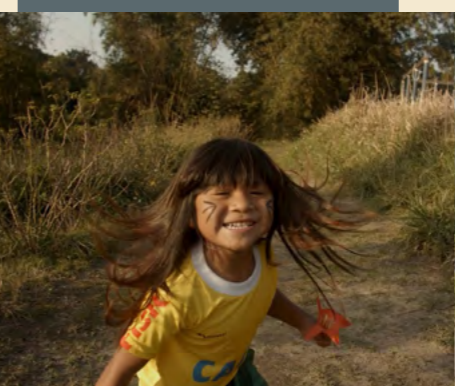
Southern muriqui



Scarlet ibis



Fandango



Indigenous communities



Tourist accommodation



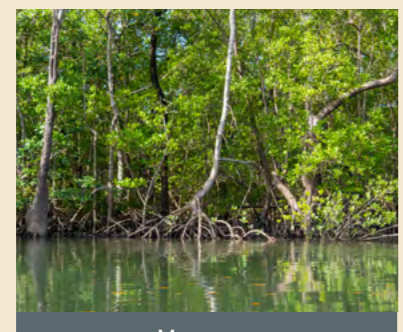
Restaurants

## BAYS, BEACHES AND ISLANDS

In the coastal region of the Atlantic Forest Great Reserve, there are attractions for all tastes: balnearies, historic towns or deserted beaches, open seas or bays, and touristic or wild islands. There are hundreds of kilometers of jagged coastline, bathed by the Atlantic Ocean, inviting locals and tourists for a visit. For those who like to surf, there are appropriate and beautiful beaches!

In the bays, the encounter of oceanic saltwater and the freshwater - from the rivers - provides incredible landscape with unique species. And, it also nourishes nurseries of the sea: the mangrove forests. This fertile environment guarantees the productivity of fishing activities and the survival of a great part of the marine life in this region. A boat trip through these calm waters allow the visitors to enjoy the imposing silhouette of the Serra do Mar mountain ranges, the presence of endangered

birds such as the rufous crab-hawk (*Buteogallus aequinoctialis*), but also other species such as the adorable Guiana dolphin (*Sotalia guianensis*) and, with some luck, the impressive jumps of the giant oceanic manta ray (*Manta biros-tris*). Finally, the Atlantic goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*), a majestic endangered fish that can exceed 400 kg, finds shelter in the reefs protected by oceanic islands.



Mangrove

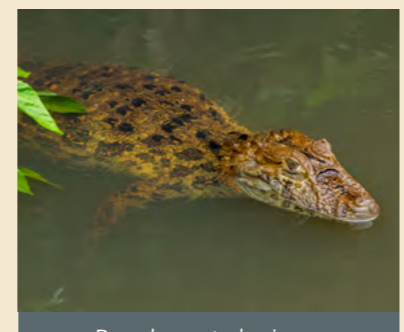
## WILDLIFE

The environmental characteristics of the Atlantic Forest make it one of the places with the largest diversity of species on the planet. The Atlantic Forest Great Reserve is today the main shelter of this biome for endangered species such as jaguars (*Panthera onca*), southern muriquis (*Brachyteles arachnoides*), the largest primate in the Americas, and tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), the largest terrestrial mammal in South America.

The exuberant nature harbors populations of top predators like cougars (*Puma concolor*) and herbivores like white-lipped peccaries (*Tayassu pecari*) and collared peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*). We can also spot endemic species of the Atlantic Forest, that are also endangered, like black-faced lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus caissara*), black lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus chrysopygus*), red-tailed amazons (*Amazona brasiliensis*), vinaceous-breasted amazons

(*Amazona vinacea*) and white-necked hawks (*Amadonastur lacernulatus*). Tiny and colorful frogs, like the *Brachycephalus coloratus*, live only in this territory.

The impressive scarlet ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*), a bird with intense red feathers that almost became extinct in this region, can be spotted once again. Its presence brings colors to the sky in this coastal area.



Broad-snouted caiman

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY

In this region, human occupation existed before the European colonization. Thus, we have a magnificent archeological collection. Some hills up to 30 meters high are actually "sambaquis" or middens: deposits of shells and residues of the nomadic people who lived here thousands of years ago.

The caíçaras, traditional inhabitants of the coast, have originated from the miscegenation of Indians, Africans and Europeans. The manufacture of canoes, artisanal fishing, extractivism activities, land cultivation and handicrafts are parts of their rich culture. The regional folklore is best represented by the Fandango Caíçara, a musical-choreographic-poetic and festive expression, that is officially registered as "Brazilian Intangible Cultural Heritage". Thanks to the diversity of environments and preserved natural heritages, traditional groups, indigenous, and quilombolas

can remain and thrive in their lands while their traditions are respected and appreciated.

The colonial heritage presents itself in the most diverse ways. The Portuguese, for example, appears in colonial architecture and typical cuisine, which in addition to the varied seafood, offers the "barreado" - a stewed made in a clay pot with cassava flour, rice, and bananas as side-dishes.



Quilombola communities

## TOURISM AND LEISURE

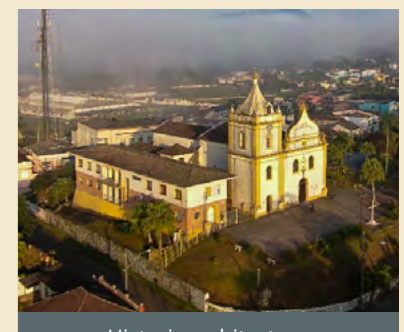
The Atlantic Forest Great Reserve includes four historic cities that are officially protected by the Brazilian National Institute of Artistic and Historic Heritage - São Francisco do Sul-SC, Paranguá-PR, Antonina-PR and Iguape-SP; and two of the oldest towns in Brazil - Guaraqueçaba-PR and Cananéia-SP, which are full of charming colonial architecture. Rustic and colorful houses made of stone, sand and whale oil decorate the historic centers with their pedestrian streets, small squares and bandstands.

Throughout the year, cultural festivals liven up these cities by bringing together music, theater, cinema, fine arts, and gastronomy, attracting artists and visitors from all over Brazil.

For those who like the excitement of connecting with nature, it is possible to have adventures with floaters, kayaks or rafting on the rivers. It is also possible to join a boat trip, to dive, to climb on the

mountains, hiking or cycling on trails in the middle of forests. There are activities for all tastes and ages. And, after an intense day of recreation, there is nothing better than to enjoy the hospitality and coziness of a hotel network for all budgets.

The region is well connected thanks to highways and by the proximity to international airports such as São Paulo-Guarulhos (GRU) and Curitiba International-Afonso Pena (CWB). All this makes it easier to welcome visitors.



Historic architecture

# ATLANTIC FOREST GREAT RESERVE



## THE LANDSCAPES OF THE ATLANTIC FOREST



### ARAUCARIA FOREST

The Atlantic Forest Great Reserve hosts a few remnants of this symbolic ecosystem from the South of Brazil. Dominated by pre-historic Araucaria trees, present in the Jurassic period (more than 200 million years ago), this plant formation is well-adapted to cold climate with frosts. The forest shares space with mountain grasslands and its rocky outcrops.

### MOUNTAIN GRASSLANDS AND THICKETS

These are typical habitats located on the Serra do Mar mountain tops. Hard physical conditions such as high altitude, low temperatures and strong winds prevent the establishment of forests, and promote a high diversity of grasses and small trees, many of which are endemic to these habitats. Amazing views wait for climbers visiting these environments!

### CLOUD FORESTS

Right below the previous habitats, the combination of milder temperatures, slower winds and high humidity gives place to these mysterious forests where mid-sized trees are covered by epiphytes, like orchids and bromeliads. These forests are home to the tiny, endemic and colorful *Brachycephalus* frogs, and act as sources of water for millions of people.

### LOWLAND RAINFORESTS

Below 800 meters, where slopes become gentler, the combination of rich soils with high precipitations allow the establishment of a bewildering array of large and diverse trees that host one of the most biodiverse habitats in the World. These lowland forests are as impressive and spectacular as those in the Amazon, and show the largest concentrations of large mammals and birds.

### RIVERS AND WATERFALLS

The Atlantic Forest Great Reserve houses numerous rivers, creeks and waterfalls, which snake through the forests bringing life, movement and freshness. They provide space to aquatic recreational activities such as bathing, rafting and kayaking. Crystalline and abundant water is provided by local forests throughout the year, serving to small towns and large cities across this region.

### MARSHES AND LAGOONS

Where running waters slow down, many marshes and lagoons concentrate around rivers and springs. These habitats are priority areas for conservation, hosting many amphibians and reptiles. Also, this habitat hosts the only known population of the endangered Paraná antwren (*Formicivora acutirostris*). These wetlands are essential within the water cycle, acting both as reservoirs and purifying systems.

### BAYS AND MANGROVES

The realm of mangrove forests is composed of resistant trees, whose roots are adapted to the tides and high salinity. The combination of nutrients with shelter turn mangroves into a highly productive ecosystem and an essential nursery for marine life. A boat ride through these vast and wild bays is an unforgettable experience, full of sightings of scarlet ibis, two species of dolphins and red-tailed amazons.

### RESTINGA FORESTS AND BEACHES

Restingas are coastal forests that grow on sandy soils with a strong influence from the sea. The dunes present along the coast offer a dynamic environment, important for native species and leisure space for people. The region also hosts excellent samples of pristine beaches for the enjoyment of any visitor, which also serve as nesting grounds for green turtles.

### OCEAN AND ISLANDS

The Atlantic Ocean finds in this region one of its richest portions within Brazil. Estuaries and bays guarantee the survival of rare species of marine life and also the possibility of performing diving and sport-fishing. The Atlantic Forest Great Reserve includes the marine platform up to 50 meters deep, peppered with several islands that contain both sandy beaches and rocky reefs.

