

TRAVEL

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The boat trip, which gives you a different perspective of the falls, takes you down the sinewy river, through rapids and in a few terrifying instances, under some of the larger falls for a colossal soaking. No amount of raingear will keep you dry, as I ruefully found out, as frigid water seeped down my lower back, despite my waterproof jacket. Thankfully I was warned about this and had a spare change of clothes to change into before plodding off to tackle the many trails that circumvented the falls.

However, nothing had prepared me for the sheer scale of the falls themselves. Not even my fly-past the falls themselves. I heard it before I could see it. The roar was deafening. As I stood on the edge of the Devil's Throat, the tallest cataract, I faced a veritable wall of water, cascading down in twisted, frothy jets. It seemed other-

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The cunning Coati - harrassing tourists for scraps of food



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worldly, larger than life. I had never seen anything quite like it. The throngs of jostling tourists melted away as I stood, drenched and utterly spellbound, staring into the cloudy abyss.

Well maintained boardwalks wound through lush, subtropical forests, making it easy to navigate. I stopped frequently, to take in the breathtaking scenery as well as to steer clear of coati (raccoon like creatures found in South America) as they harassed fellow travellers in their search for food. The trees rustled overhead and I glimpsed a brightly coloured beak belonging to a toucan.

FOZ DO IGUAÇU

A brief taxi-ride across the bridge, with even shorter formalities at immigration, brought us into Foz do Iguaçu, the Brazilian city that borders the Iguazú Falls. Larger and more cosmopolitan than its Argentinian counterpart, the city is the gateway to the Brazilian side of the falls.

With better tourist infrastructure it is easier to get to the Brazilian side of the falls, which offers a panoramic view of the cataracts. We took a hold of this opportunity to introduce our son to the beauty of the Iguazú Falls. Meandering down the trails under the most dazzling rainbows, soaked by the mist and dodging curious coatis, my son remained enamoured most by the red double-decker bus that transported us to and from the falls.

Next stop: Ciudad Del Este, Paraguay!

Samai Haider is a writer, traveller, artist and... economist. If her rather odd amalgamation of interests isn't dotty enough, she is currently travelling around South America - with her pack and toddler strapped to her back. Read about the fables of her foibles here at The Daily Star. You can see more of her work at: <http://samaihaider.com/>

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