<u>Iguazu Falls</u>

Location: Argentina

Iguazu Falls is a collection of waterfalls located on the border of Argentina and Brazil. The falls are created by the Iguazu River, which runs through a basaltic plateau and cascades over a series of cliffs, resulting in numerous waterfalls and rapids. The falls are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and are considered one of the natural wonders of the world. The history of Iguazu Falls dates back to the indigenous Guarani people who lived in the area before the arrival of the Spanish. The falls were known to the Guarani as [Big Water] and were considered a sacred site. The Guarani believed that the falls were created by a god who fell in love with a mortal woman and created the falls to protect her. In the 16th century, the Spanish arrived in the area and claimed it for the Spanish crown. Over the centuries, the area around the falls was colonized and developed, leading to the creation of towns and cities on both the Argentine and Brazilian sides of the border. In the 20th century, efforts were made to protect the falls and the surrounding environment. The Iguazu National Park was established on the Argentine side of the falls in 1934, and the Iguaçu National Park was established on the Brazilian side in

1939. The two parks were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 and are now jointly managed by the two countries. Today, Iguazu Falls is a major tourist destination and attracts millions of visitors each year. The falls are also an important source of hydroelectric power and provide water for agriculture and industry in the region. Efforts continue to be made to protect the falls and the surrounding ecosystem for future generations.



