



Brasília & Goiás

Includes →

Brasília	335
Goiás	349
Goiânia	349
Cidade de Goiás.....	350
Pirenópolis.....	353
Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros	357
Alto Paraíso de Goiás	359
São Jorge	360

Best Places to Eat

- Taypá (p345)
- Oliveae (p345)
- Fazenda Babilônia (p356)
- Universal Diner (p346)
- Jambalaya (p359)

Best Places to Stay

- Baguá Pousada (p360)
- Brasília Palace Hotel (p344)
- Pousa, Café e Cultura (p355)
- Taman Baru (p356)
- Pousada do Ipê (p353)

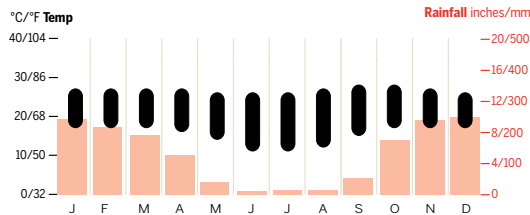
Why Go?

Brasília was conceived as a workable, utopic answer to modern, urban chaos. The purpose-built city is lauded by many for its futuristic architecture and avant-garde design but knocked by detractors who bemoan the impracticality of the uberorganized, themed city blocks. As Brazil's seat of government, bureaucrats rule, but a thriving city is there, the first in the world constructed in the 20th century to achieve World Cultural Heritage designation by Unesco.

Enveloping the Distrito Federal (DF), Goiás is Brazil's 'road less traveled,' though not for good reason: fiery red sunsets over the lush, rolling hills of the dramatic cerrado (savanna) landscape set the stage for unparalleled postcard-perfect views. Almost criminally overlooked by many tourists, Goiás is easy to get lost in for a few weeks. Major attractions include the picturesque colonial villages of Cidade de Goiás and Pirenópolis, and the rivers, waterfalls and forest trails of Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros.

When to Go

Brasília



Easter week
Hooded religious figures take to the streets of Cidade de Goiás during Semana Santa.

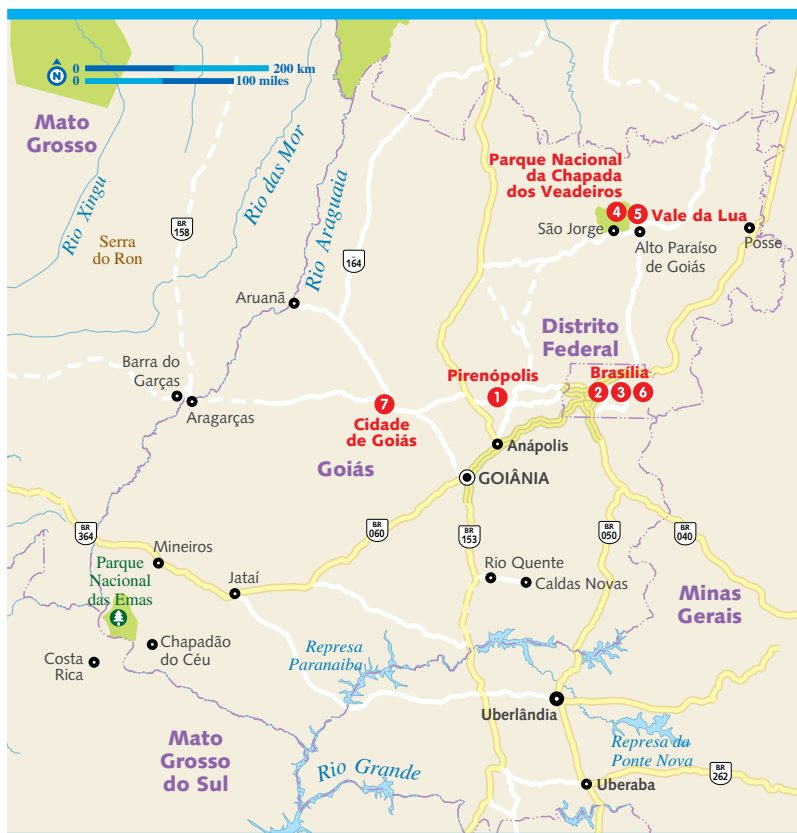
50 days after Easter
Historical reenactment in Pirenópolis during the Festa do Divino Espírito.

Apr–Oct When the breathtaking cerrado (savanna) is dry and in full bloom.

History

On the heels of the gold discoveries in Minas Gerais, *bandeirantes* (groups of roaming adventurers who explored the interior) pushed further inland in search of more precious metals and, as always, indigenous slaves. In 1682, a *bandeira* headed by Bar-

tolomeu Bueno da Silva visited the region. The indigenous Goyaz people gave him the nickname *anhanguera* (old devil) when, after burning some *cachaça* (sugarcane alcohol) – which the Goyaz believed to be water – he threatened to set fire to all the rivers if they didn't show him where their



Brasília & Goiás Highlights

1 Beating the heat in a barrage of waterfalls around colonially cool **Pirenópolis** (p353).

2 Cruising Brasília's futuristic architecture at night when the **Praça dos Três Poderes** (p339) takes on an otherworldly glow.

3 Stepping inside the ethereal **Santuário Dom Bosco** (p338) in Brasília

and watching your 'seen one church, seen them all' attitude checked on the spot.

4 Trekking through the unique high-cerrado (savanna) flora in **Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros** (p358).

5 Rock-hopping the naturally formed lunarscape

at **Vale da Lua** (p359), near Chapada dos Veadeiros.

6 Losing yourself in the excellent **bars and restaurants** (p345) of Brasília's unique *superquadras*

7 Lazily wandering the cobblestone streets of **Cidade de Goiás** (p350) in a sugar-induced coma.