



Brasília & Goiás

Includes →

Brasília.....	332
Goiás.....	345
Cidade de Goiás	347
Pirenópolis	349
Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros.....	354
São Jorge.....	357

Best Places to Eat

- Nossa Cozinha Bistrô (p339)
- Aquavit (p343)
- Chão Nativo I (p346)
- Pireneus Café (p353)
- Fazenda Babilônia (p352)

Best Places to Stay

- Villa do Comendador Eco-Resort (p352)
- Baguá Pousada (p357)
- Pousada do Ipê (p348)
- Pousada Tajupá (p352)
- Hotel Parque das Primaveras (p354)

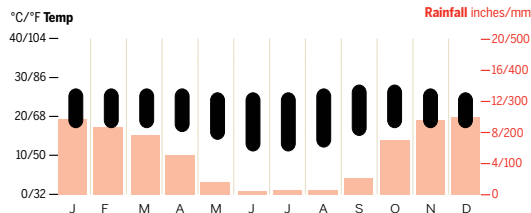
Why Go?

Brasília was conceived as a workable, utopian 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, it's a city of bureaucrats, but it remains the only city 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

Brasilia



Semana Santa (Holy Week)

Hooded *farricocos* take to the streets of Cidade de Goiás.

50 days after Easter

Festa do Divino Espírito in Pirenópolis.

Nov & Dec

When the breathtaking cerrado is 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 Bartolomeu 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



Brasília & Goiás Highlights

1 Soaking up the alternative atmosphere in colonially cool **Pirenópolis** (p349).

2 Cruising Brasília's futuristic architecture at night when the **Praça dos Três Poderes** (p333) takes on an otherworldly glow.

3 Stepping inside the ethereal **Santuário Dom Bosco** (p333) and watching

your 'seen one church, seen them all' attitude adjusted on the spot.

4 Trekking through the unique high-cerrado flora in **Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros** (p355).

5 Cleansing your soul or just taking a walk on the weird side at the **Templo da Boa Vontade** (p344).

6 Rock-hopping the naturally formed lunar landscape at **Vale da Lua** (p355).

7 Lazily wandering the cobblestone streets of **Cidade de Goiás** (p347) in a sugar-induced coma.

8 Curing your ills or, if you don't have any, just splashing about in the hot springs at the **Hot Park** (p355) in Rio Quente.