

Barra da Tijuca & Western Rio

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Hiking through tropical rainforest, enjoying memorable views from rocky lookouts and recovering beneath cool waterfalls in the **Floresta da Tijuca** (p161).
- 2 Basking on the wide golden sands of **Praia da Barra da Tijuca** (p157).
- 3 Exploring the lushly decadent gardens of **Sítio Burle Marx** (p157).
- 4 Delving into Brazil's rich folk-art traditions at the impressive **Casa do Pontal** (p157).
- 5 Looking for wildlife on the peaceful trails of the **Parque Ecológico Chico Mendes** (p157).



For more detail of this area, see Map p262 

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Laguna Restaurante (p157)
- ➔ Don Pascual (p160)
- ➔ Bira (p160)

For reviews, see p157 ➔

Best Places to Walk

- ➔ Floresta da Tijuca (p161)
- ➔ Bosque da Barra (p157)
- ➔ Parque Ecológico Chico Mendes (p157)

For reviews, see p157 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Village (p161)
- ➔ Fashion Mall (p162)
- ➔ Barra Shopping (p162)

For reviews, see p161 ➔

Explore Barra da Tijuca & Western Rio

The Miami of Rio, Barra da Tijuca is a sprawling suburb with huge malls and entertainment complexes, long traffic corridors and very little pedestrian movement. Barra – as it's known locally – is also where much of the 2016 Summer Olympics will take place. The beach here is the real attraction, a wide and lovely 12km-long stretch of shoreline.

The commercial area feels quite different from other parts of Rio, as Barra's development happened relatively recently. The middle class first began moving here in the 1970s, when *cariocas* (residents of Rio) fled crowded, crime-ridden streets to live on an unpopulated stretch of beachfront. Today, the influx of new residents has created crowded, problematic conditions once again.

While first-time visitors to Rio don't always make it to Barra da Tijuca, there are some intriguing sights here, aside from the beach. The Sítio Burle Marx (p157) contains some of the city's most picturesque gardens, while the Casa do Pontal (p157) houses a fascinating collection of folk art.

Once you get beyond the development of Barra, the region gets less and less urban, and you'll soon feel like you're deep in the tropics. Some of Rio's best beaches lie out this way. There are also great restaurants in idyllic settings where you can feast on seafood while watching crashing waves, all of which seems a far cry from busy downtown Rio.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hangouts** Even party people from the Zona Sul will make the trip out to Nuth (p160), one of Rio's loveliest nightclubs.
- ➔ **Beaches** The western beaches are quite stunning, particularly Joatinga, Prainha and Grumari (p160).
- ➔ **Arts** Barra's architecturally striking Cidade das Artes (p160) is the go-to destination for concerts and performances.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metró na Superfície** The Barra Expresso metro bus connects Ipanema/General Osório metro station with points along Barra.
- ➔ **Metró** The new *linha* 4 (line 4) connects Barra da Tijuca to Ipanema. It runs from Jardim Oceânico station (eastern Barra) to São Conrado, Antero de Quental (Leblon), Jardim de Alah (Leblon), NS da Paz (Ipanema) and General Osório (Ipanema and Copacabana).