

Botafogo, Humaitá & Urca

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Gliding up to the top of **Pão de Açúcar** (p101) by cable car for the awe-inspiring view of Rio at your feet.
- 2 Learning about Brazil's many indigenous cultures at the interactive **Museu do Índio** (p102).
- 3 Walking between forest and sea on the peaceful **Pista Cláudio Coutinho** (p102).
- 4 Checking out works by some of Rio's most talented street artists at **GaleRio** (p102).
- 5 Basking on the sands of **Praia Vermelha** (p103), one of Rio's prettiest little beaches.



For more detail of this area, see Map p252 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Although Urca is home to one of Rio's top attractions, few visitors venture into the neighborhood beyond Pão de Açúcar. Its quiet tree-lined streets (such as Rua Otávio Correia) make for some intriguing exploring, and there are picturesque views from the bayside roads (such as Av João Luís Alves).

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lasai (p105)
- ➔ Meza Bar (p103)
- ➔ Oui Oui (p103)
- ➔ Emporium Pax (p103)
- ➔ Miam Miam (p103)

For reviews, see p115 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Comuna (p105)
- ➔ Caverna (p105)
- ➔ Bar Urca (p105)
- ➔ Champanharia Ovelha Negra (p106)
- ➔ Espírito do Chopp (p106)

For reviews, see p117 ➔

Best Places to Dance

- ➔ Cabaret Lounge (p106)
- ➔ Bar Bukowski (p106)
- ➔ Casa da Matriz (p106)

For reviews, see p117 ➔

Explore Botafogo, Humaitá & Urca

Traditional, middle-class Botafogo and neighboring Humaitá, may not have the beaches of their neighbors to the south, but they don't lack for much else, with intriguing museums, movie theaters, quaint bookshops, a shopping center, and festive, open-air bars on tree-lined backstreets. There are also a few nightclubs and a boulevard dotted with old mansions.

To the east, Urca is even more idyllic, with shaded, quiet streets. Its eclectic architecture includes art deco and modernist houses backed by manicured gardens. Along the seawall, which forms the northwestern perimeter of Pão de Açúcar, fisherfolk cast for dinner as couples lounge beneath palm trees, taking in views of Baía de Guanabara (Guanabara Bay) and Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer). Tiny Praia Vermelha in the south marks the beginning of a pleasant walking trail and has one of Rio's finest beach views.

Botafogo is named after the Portuguese settler João Pereira de Souza Botafogo and grew in importance following the arrival of the Portuguese court in the late 1800s. Dona Carlota Joaquina, the wife of Dom João VI, had a country villa here, and she used to bathe in the Baía de Guanabara. With royalty established in the area, arriving aristocrats built many mansions, some of which still stand as schools, theaters and cultural centers.

In the 19th century, development was spurred by the construction of a tram that ran to the Jardim Botânico (botanical garden), linking the bay with Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas. This artery still plays a vital role in Rio's traffic flow, though Botafogo's main streets are now extremely congested.

Local Life

➔ **Hangouts** At Bar Urca (p106), locals sip beers and munch on appetizers along the seawall across the street, while taking in the pretty views.

➔ **Markets** Browse the produce stands of Cobal do Humaitá (p106) by day and sample the bars by night.

➔ **Shopping** Botafogo Praia Shopping (p107) has colorful shops, a cinema and upper-floor restaurants with great views.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Botafogo buses** Ipanema, Leblon and Copacabana (161 and 573); Jardim Botânico and Gávea (170, 176 and 592).

➔ **Urca buses** Centro (107); Ipanema, Leblon and Copacabana (511); Jardim Botânico and Gávea (512).

➔ **Metro** Botafogo.