

Ipanema & Leblon

IPANEMA | LEBLON | VIDIGAL

Neighborhood Top Five

- ❶ Frolicking in the waves, sipping refreshing *maté* and watching people parade on lovely **Ipanema Beach** (p58).
- ❷ Joining fishers and couples on rocky **Ponta do Arpoador** (p59) for the nightly spectacle of sunset.
- ❸ Feasting on Bahian snacks and browsing artwork and handicrafts at the weekly **Hippie Fair** (p70).
- ❹ Gazing out over the length of Leblon and Ipanema at the **Mirante do Leblon** (p59).
- ❺ Catching a concert at **Vinícius Show Bar** (p70), and following with drinks along Rua Vinícius de Moraes.



For more detail of this area, see Maps p236 and p240 ➔

Explore Ipanema & Leblon

The favored address for young, beautiful and wealthy *cariocas* (residents of Rio), these twin neighborhoods boast magnificent beaches and tree-lined streets full of enticing open-air cafes, restaurants and bars. They're also the epicenter of the city's high-end shopping, with dozens of colorful boutiques and multistory *galerias* (shopping centers) selling pretty things that can quickly deplete a budget. While there are few traditional sights here, you can bask on the beach and explore the leafy streets. Ipanema is also Rio's gay district, which revolves around the cafe and bar scene on and near Rua Farma de Amœdo.

Ipanema acquired international fame in the early '60s as the birthplace of the bossa nova hit song 'Girl from Ipanema.' The neighborhood became the hangout of artists, intellectuals and wealthy liberals, who frequented the sidewalk cafes and bars. These days the artists and intellectuals have moved on, and the area is better known for its high-priced apartments and luxury lifestyle. This is, after all, Rio's most affluent district. While few *cariocas* can afford to live here, the streets and beach attract a wide cross-section of society, from surf kids from the outskirts to long-time residents and fashion-conscious twenty- and thirtysomethings who pack the open-sided bars by night. Ipanema and Leblon are also among the city's top destinations for dining and drinking.

Local Life

- **Markets** Hit a fruit market (p35) for fresh mangoes, passion fruit and snacks (such as the crepe-like tapioca).
- **Restaurant strips** Rua Dias Ferreira in Leblon is packed with high-end restaurants that serve sushi, Italian tapas, Brazilian fusion and more.
- **Hangouts** Ipanema and Leblon have many lively neighborhood bars. Good starting points: Belmonte (p69) in Leblon and Barzin (p67) in Ipanema.
- **Rainy-day escapes** Shopping Leblon (p72) has plenty of rainy-day amusement, including top-end shops, a movie theater and decent restaurants – some with views.

Getting There & Away

- **Bus** Botafogo (574); Corcovado train station (570); Urca (512); Copacabana (570); São Conrado (177); Centro (132); and Novo Rio bus station (474).
- **Metro** General Osório and NS da Paz in Ipanema; Jardim de Alah and Antero de Quental in Leblon.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

On Sundays the east-bound lane of the beach road closes to traffic and fills with cyclists, joggers and in-line skaters. The car-free stretch goes all the way up through Copacabana to Leme.

Best Places to Eat

- Zazá Bistrô Tropical (p64)
- Zuka (p66)
- CT Boucherie (p65)
- Via Sete (p61)
- La Carioca Cevicheria (p62)
- Stuzzi (p65)

For reviews, see p59 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- Canastra (p66)
- Complex Esquina 111 (p66)
- Alto Vidigal (p70)
- Bar Astor (p67)
- Academia da Cachaça (p69)
- Brewteco (p69)

For reviews, see p66 ➡

Best Places to Shop

- Gilson Martins (p70)
- Toca do Vinícius (p71)
- Osklen (p71)
- Maria Oiticica (p72)
- 10Aquim (p71)
- Forum (p71)

For reviews, see p70 ➡