

Santa Teresa & Lapa

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1** Photographing the **Escadaria Selarón** (p138), a moving work of art created by an artist who made the mosaic-covered staircase his life's work.
- 2** Riding the **bonde** (p139) over the Arcos da Lapa and up to village-like Santa Teresa.
- 3** Watching sunlight play through the dazzling stained-glass windows at the **Catedral Metropolitana** (p140).
- 4** Surveying the exquisite modern-art collection at **Museu Chácara do Céu** (p139).
- 5** Taking in the fine views over Rio and Baía de Guanabara from the **Parque das Ruínas** (p139).



For more detail of this area, see Map p258 →

Explore Santa Teresa & Lapa

Icons of bohemian Rio, Santa Teresa and Lapa are two rough-and-tumble neighborhoods that have contributed considerably to the city's artistic and musical heritage. On a hill overlooking the city, Santa Teresa has an impressive collection of 19th-century mansions set along winding lanes. Many beautiful colonial homes stretch skyward, their manicured gardens hidden behind gabled fences.

Today Santa Teresa is the buzzword for a vibrant arts scene. Throughout the year, the sounds of impromptu festivals and street parties fill the air, ranging from Afro-Brazilian *maracatu* drumming along Rua Joaquim Murtinho to live jazz at the Parque das Ruínas, and the annual *Portas Abertas* event sees dozens of artists open their studios and cover the streets with living installations.

The streets of Lapa lie down the hill from Santa Teresa and south of Cinelândia. Formerly a residential neighborhood of the wealthy, Lapa became a red-light district in the 1930s. Although it is still a gritty area, it's also one of the music capitals of Brazil. At night, revelers from all over the city mingle among its samba clubs and music-filled bars. The music scene has brought some gentrification to the area, including new restaurants, hostels and even a luxury hotel.

Lapa's landmark aqueduct, Arcos da Lapa, is one of the neighborhood's most prominent features. Coursing over the 64m-high structure are narrow tracks that carry the photogenic *bonde* (tram) to and from Santa Teresa.

Local Life

- ➔ **Markets** Lapa's excellent Feira do Rio Antigo (p146) features antiques, crafts, food and live music.
- ➔ **Hangouts** Santa Teresa has some fine local haunts, including the Bar do Gomes (p143) and the Bar do Mineiro (p141).
- ➔ **Shopping strips** The Rua do Lavradio is dotted with antique shops and cafes, plus samba clubs by night.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Santa Teresa buses** Centro (206 and 214) from Carioca metro station.
- ➔ **Lapa buses** Leblon, Ipanema and Copacabana (161); Gávea and Jardim Botânico (158 and 161).
- ➔ **Metro** Cinelândia.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Santa Teresa is fringed by favelas (slums, informal communities). Be cautious when walking around, and avoid deserted streets. The best time to explore is on Saturdays or Sundays, when the neighborhood is at its liveliest.

Despite signs of renewal, Lapa still has its share of crime. Take care when strolling around the neighborhood, and be mindful of pickpocketing on busy weekend nights.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rústico (p140)
- ➔ Espírito Santa (p141)
- ➔ Casa Momus (p142)
- ➔ Aprazível (p141)
- ➔ Têrêze (p141)

For reviews, see p140 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Bar dos Descasados (p142)
- ➔ Leviano Bar (p143)
- ➔ Antônio's (p143)
- ➔ Anexo Bar (p143)

For reviews, see p142 ➔

Best Live Music

- ➔ Rio Scenarium (p144)
- ➔ Semente (p144)
- ➔ TribOz (p144)
- ➔ Democráticus (p144)
- ➔ Carioca da Gema (p144)
- ➔ Circo Voador (p144)

For reviews, see p144 ➔