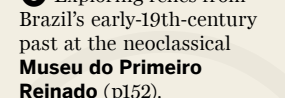


Neighborhood Top Five

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- ➊ Hearing the roar of the crowds as some of the world's best players take to the field inside hallowed **Maracanã Football Stadium** (p150).
 - ➋ Browsing handicrafts, snacking on Northeastern dishes and partner-dancing to live *forró* in the **Feira Nordestina** (p152).
 - ➌ Exploring relics from Brazil's early-19th-century past at the neoclassical **Museu do Primeiro Reinado** (p152).
 - ➍ Taking a stroll amid the greenery of the once imperial **Quinta da Boa Vista** (p152).
 - ➎ Perusing pre-Columbian artifacts inside the **Museu Nacional** (p152), a former royal palace.



For more detail of this area, see Map p261 ➡

Explore Zona Norte

Vast Zona Norte sprawls many kilometers toward the Baixada Fluminense. It boasts fewer attractions than the Zona Sul and Centro, but there are still excellent reasons to visit, including soccer rowdiness at Maracanã, great views from little-visited landmarks and historical intrigue at former palaces.

The Zona Norte is home to many distinct neighborhoods and favelas (slums, informal communities), including several with pivotal roles in the competitive Carnaval parade. Rehearsals at samba schools are a worthwhile draw, and attract huge crowds as Carnaval draws nearer. Some favelas are receiving dramatic makeovers, including Complexo do Alemão, a collection of communities that is slowly becoming a tourist attraction, courtesy of a *teleférico* (cable car) that glides over the favela hillsides.

In the 19th century the Zona Norte was the home of the nobility, including Dom João VI. The area saw dramatic transformation as mangrove swamps were cleared to make way for stately homes. In the 20th century, the wealthy moved out and exploding urbanism transformed the landscape into a gritty, heavily populated, working-class suburb. A visit is recommended for those who want to see how the rest of Rio lives. You'll escape the tourist crowds and experience an authentic slice of Rio far removed from the picture-postcard sights of the Zona Sul.

Although the area is spread out, several sites are fairly close together and are easily reached by metro, lying just west of Centro. Other places are best reached by taxi.

Local Life

➔ **Nightlife** Dust off your dance shoes and join *forró*-loving crowds at a long night of live music and dancing in the Feira Nordestina (p152).

➔ **Markets** CADEG (p153) is Rio's largest market and a fine place to browse the endless rows of produce, meats and fish; it's also home to great-value restaurants, with a festive air (and live music) on weekends.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Maracanã buses** From Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon (464); to Copacabana and Ipanema (456 and 457); to Leblon (464).

➔ **Maracanã metro** Maracanã.

➔ **Quinta da Boa Vista buses** Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon (474).

➔ **Quinta da Boa Vista metro** São Cristóvão (for Museu Nacional and Jardim Zoológico).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The best time to visit this area is on weekends, when you'll find the markets, parks and other attractions at their liveliest.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Aconchego Carioca (p153)
- ➔ Barsa (p153)
- ➔ Da Gema (p154)

For reviews, see p153 ➔

Best Views

- ➔ Sambódromo (p153)
- ➔ Complexo do Alemão (p152)
- ➔ Igreja da Penha (p153)

For reviews, see p152 ➔

Best Live Music

- ➔ Renascença Clube (p154)
- ➔ Feira Nordestina (p152)

For reviews, see p154 ➔