



# Brazil

## Includes »

Rio de Janeiro.....	266
Paraty.....	291
São Paulo.....	293
Ouro Preto.....	303
Tiradentes.....	306
Ilha de Santa Catarina.....	311
Foz do Iguaçu.....	318
Brasília.....	321
The Pantanal.....	326
Bonito.....	332
Salvador.....	334
Parque Nacional dos Lençóis Maranhenses..	370
Amazon Jungle.....	385

## Best Places to Eat

- » Espírito Santa (p280)
- » Bráz Pizzaria (p298)
- » A Portinha (p349)
- » Tacacá da Gisela (p383)
- » Vó Bertila (p320)

## Best Beaches

- » Baía de Sancho (p355)
- » Praia do Espelho (p349)
- » Lopes Mendes (p290)
- » Praia de Jericoacoara (p365)
- » Praia dos Golfinhos (p358)

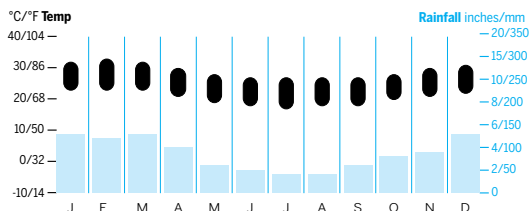
## Why Go?

Brazil. The mere whisper of its name awakens the senses with promises of paradise: cerulean waters giving way to 7500km of sun-kissed sands; music-filled metropolises and idyllic tropical islands; enchanting colonial towns and rugged red-rock canyons; majestic waterfalls and crystal-clear rivers; lush rainforests and dense jungles; gorgeous people and the Beautiful Game. It's all here in spectacular cinematic overload.

The country has enthralled for centuries for good reason: every bit of the hyperbole is unequivocally true. It all climaxes in Brazil's most famous celebration, Carnival, which storms through the country's cities and towns like a best-of blitz of hip-shaking samba, dazzling costumes and carefree lust for life, but Brazilians hardly check their passion for revelry at Lent. The Brazilian Way – *O Jeito Brasileiro* – embodies the country's lust for life, and will seize you in its sensational clutches every day of the year.

## When to Go

### Rio de Janeiro



**Dec–Feb** Summer sizzles in the lead-up to Carnival. Rainy season in the Amazon.

**Sep–Nov** Crowds dispel as spring brings serenity and pleasant temperatures.

**Mar–Jun** Affordable prices and Northeast sunshine beckon travelers.

## Connections

Brazil shares land borders with every country on the continent except Chile and Ecuador. The most common land crossings for travelers include the epic Amazon river crossing from Belém or Manaus to Leticia (Colombia) or Iquitos (Peru); a trek through the Pantanal, the world's largest wetlands, and out through Corumbá into Bolivia via the daily train link with Santa Cruz; and the waterlogged tri-border linking Foz do Iguaçu with Ciudad del Este, Paraguay and Puerto Iguazú, Argentina. By air, you can reach most South American capitals directly, including Asunción, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Lima, Montevideo and Santiago (as well as Santa Cruz, Bolivia); and common overland bus routes reach Asunción, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santiago and Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

## ITINERARIES

### Two Weeks

Throw yourself into the thick of it in the Cidade Maravilhosa (Marvelous City – Rio de Janeiro's appropriate nickname), taking in the sights, sounds, seductions and samba of South America's most stunning city. Then spend a few days dazzled by nature in two of the world's most important ecological hot spots, the Amazon and the Pantanal, and get up close and personal with the world's most stupendous waterfall at Foz do Iguaçu.

### One Month

Follow the two-week itinerary, but supplement Brazil's greatest hits with visits to some of the country's most cinematic destinations: beautifully preserved colonial towns in the states of Rio (Paraty) and Minas Gerais (Ouro Preto and Tiradentes); postcard-perfect beaches in Fernando de Noronha, Bahia or Florianópolis; miraculous dune desertscapes in Parque Nacional dos Lençóis Maranhenses; and the aquatic wonderland of Bonito.

## Essential Food & Drink

- » **Feijoada** The national dish: a beans, beef and/or pork stew
- » **Açaí** Blended Amazon palm berries, usually mixed with banana, granola, honey and *guaraná* syrup
- » **Moqueca** Seafood stew from Bahia (Bahiana) or Espírito Santo (Capixaba)
- » **Picanha** Brazil's most succulent meat cut, roughly translated as 'rump cap'
- » **Pão de queijo** Ubiquitous cheese bread made with *manioc* (cassava) flour, milk, eggs and cheese
- » **Cachaça** Rumlike liquor made from fermented sugarcane juice
- » **Caipirinha** The national cocktail: *caçaça*, lime and sugar

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Real (R\$)
- » **Languages** Portuguese and 180 indigenous languages
- » **Money** ATMs wide-spread, credit cards widely accepted
- » **Visas** Required for Americans, Australians and Canadians; not needed for most others

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 8,456,510 sq km
- » **Capital** Brasília
- » **Emergency** ☎192
- » **Country code** ☎55

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	R\$2.07
Canada	C\$1	R\$1.98
Euro zone	€1	R\$2.69
New Zealand	NZ\$1	R\$1.65
UK	UK£1	R\$3.14
USA	US\$1	R\$1.98

## Set Your Budget

- » **Rio budget sleeps** US\$20 (dorm) to US\$100 (double)
- » **Pay-by-weight lunch** US\$8-14
- » **Cocktail** US\$4-12
- » **Rio–Ouro Preto bus fare** US\$55

## Resources

- » **Visit Brazil** ([www.visitbrasil.com](http://www.visitbrasil.com))
- » **Brazilian Embassy in London** ([www.brazil.org.uk](http://www.brazil.org.uk))
- » **Rio Times** ([www.riotimesonline.com](http://www.riotimesonline.com))
- » **Brazzil** ([www.brazzil.com](http://www.brazzil.com))