



Brazil

Includes ➔

Rio de Janeiro	283
The Southeast	306
The South	326
The Central West ...	339
The Northeast	352
The North	388
Understand Brazil ..	404
Survival Guide	413

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Peixe Brasileiro (p383)
- ➔ Espírito Santa (p300)
- ➔ Aconchego Carioca (p315)
- ➔ Xapuri (p321)
- ➔ Estação das Docas (p392)

Best Beaches

- ➔ Baía de Sancho (p370)
- ➔ Praia do Espelho (p366)
- ➔ Praia Lopes Mendes (p308)
- ➔ Praia de Jericoacoara (p381)
- ➔ Baía dos Golfinhos (p374)

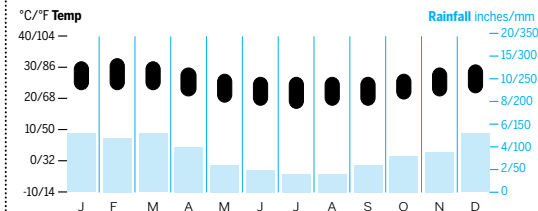
Why Go?

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, Carnaval, which storms though 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 Carnaval. Rainy season in the Amazon.

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

Mar–Jun Low season offers good-value travel, moderate temperatures and a sunny Northeast.

AT A GLANCE

- ➔ **Currency** Real (R\$)
- ➔ **Languages**
Portuguese and 180 indigenous languages
- ➔ **Money** ATMs widespread, credit cards widely accepted
- ➔ **Visas** Required for Americans, Australians and various others

Fast Facts

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

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	R\$2.76
Canada	C\$1	R\$2.87
Euro	€1	R\$4.06
New Zealand	NZ\$1	R\$2.52
UK	£1	R\$5.77
US	US\$1	R\$3.84

Set Your Budget

- ➔ **Rio budget sleeps** US\$15 (dorm) to US\$45 (double)
- ➔ **Pay-by-weight lunch**
US\$5 to US\$9
- ➔ **Cocktail** US\$3 to US\$8
- ➔ **Rio—Ouro Prêto bus fare**
US\$28

Resources

- ➔ **Visit Brazil** (www.visitbrasil.com)
- ➔ **Brazilian Embassy in London** (www.brazil.org.uk)
- ➔ **Rio Times** (www.riotimesonline.com)
- ➔ **Gringoes** (www.gringoes.com)

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 Iguaçu Falls 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

Get into the thick of it in the Cidade Maravilhosa (Marvelous City), as Rio de Janeiro is nicknamed, taking in the sights, sounds, seductions and samba of South America's most stunning city. Spend a view days dazzled by nature in two of the world's most important ecological hot spots, the Amazon and the Pantanal; get up close to the world's most stupendous waterfall, Iguaçu Falls.

One Month

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

Essential Food & Drink

- ➔ **Feijoada** The national dish: a savory stew of beans, beef and/or pork
- ➔ **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* flour, milk, eggs and cheese
- ➔ **Cachaça** Rum-like liquor made from fermented sugarcane juice
- ➔ **Caipirinha** The national cocktail: *cachaça*, limes & sugar