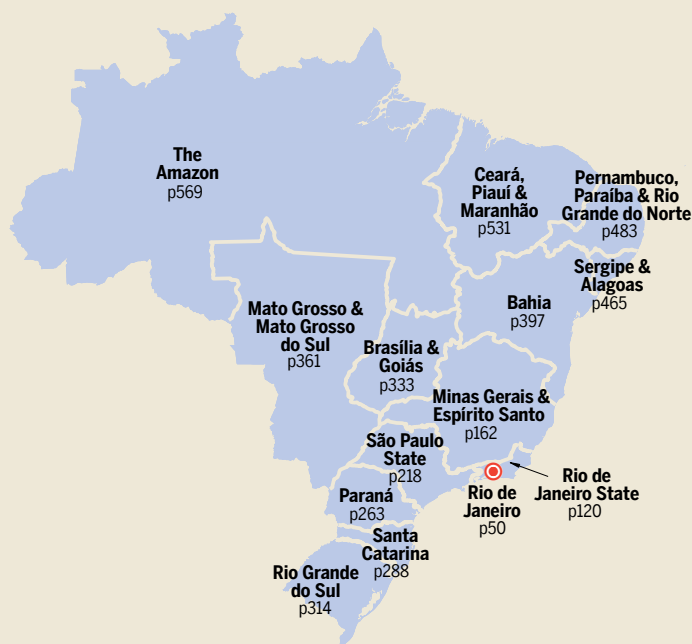




Brazil



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Itineraries



Rio & the Southeast

Gorgeous beaches, rainforest-covered islands and colonial towns are just some of the things you'll experience on this loop around the Southeast.

Spend a few days discovering **Rio** and its beaches, restaurants and music scene before heading to **Paraty**, a beautifully preserved colonial town with rainforest hikes and stunning beaches nearby. Next, stop in **Ubatuba** with its jungle-clad mountains and spectacular coastal scenery. **Ilhabela** is a car-free island of beaches, forests and waterfalls. Stop in **São Paulo** for high culture, including the nation's best museums and restaurants.

Head next to exquisite **Tiradentes** and **Ouro Preto**, some of Brazil's finest colonial gems. Afterwards, take in a bit of friendly *mineira* hospitality, good restaurants and buzzing nightlife in **Belo Horizonte**. Make a day trip to the outstanding galleries and gardens at the **Instituto de Arte Contemporânea Inhotim**, 50km southwest of Belo Horizonte.

Visit the hiker's paradise of **Parque Nacional de Caparaó**; further east, relish the dramatic beauty of **Parque Estadual da Pedra Azul**. Continue to the coast, for beach action and seafood in **Guarapari**. Further south you'll find the stunning beaches and high-end dining and nightlife of **Búzios**, which makes a great final stop before heading back to Rio.



Best of Brazil

On this epic trip you'll experience the rhythm-infused towns of the Northeast, the jungles of the Amazon and the biodiversity of the Pantanal, with beaches, tropical islands and historic towns thrown into the mix.

From **São Paulo**, head east towards Rio, stopping at glorious beaches such as **Ubatuba**, **Trindade** and **Paraty-Mirim**. Leave a couple of days for hiking the rainforest paths and basking on the beaches of **Ilha Grande**. Continue northeast to **Rio**, for a hearty dose of nightlife, beach culture and panoramic views.

From there head north, via bus or plane, to **Salvador**, the country's Afro-Brazilian gem that's known for its colorful colonial center, drumming in the streets, and lively (and numerous) festivals. Further up the coast visit historic and arts-loving **Olinda**, then catch a flight from neighboring **Recife** to the spectacular archipelago of **Fernando de Noronha**, where you find pretty beaches, snorkeling, diving and a paradise-like setting.

Back on the mainland, travel north, stopping in the backpackers' paradise of **Jericoacoara** en route to the surreal dunes in the **Parque Nacional dos Lençóis Maranhenses**, a stark contrast to the colonial beauty of **Alcântara**. To the west lies **Belém**, a culturally rich city near the lush island of Ilha de Marajó. Catch a boat up the Amazon to **Santarém** and on to **Alter do Chão** for a trip into the jungle, and continue on to the burgeoning city of **Manaus**.

From Manaus, fly to **Brasília** to take in its stunning architecture, then visit **Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros**, for waterfalls, canyons and dips in natural swimming pools. Next head to **Cuiabá**, gateway to the breathtaking canyons of **Chapada dos Guimarães**. Spend a few days horseback riding and boating in the Pantanal, one of Brazil's best destinations for wildlife watching. Head south via Campo Grande to **Bonito** for crystal-clear rivers, lush forests and caves. Continue south to the awe-inspiring **Iguaçu Falls**. Before completing the circle, explore the secluded beaches and charming Germanic towns around **Florianópolis**.



Bahia & the Northeast

Those looking for the soul of Brazil would do well to focus on the Northeast. A confluence of music, history and culture amid spectacular natural scenery makes for an unforgettable journey.

Catch a flight to **Porto Seguro**, then quickly make your way to the pretty towns of **Arraial d'Ajuda** and **Trancoso**, both blessed with great guesthouses and restaurants, festive nightlife and access to walks on a seemingly endless cliff-backed beach. Continue north to **Itacaré**, a lively town with great surf and cove beaches reached via trails through hilly rainforest. Then head on to rhythm-filled **Salvador**, Bahia's most vibrant and colorful city. From there, catch a boat to **Morro de São Paulo**, an island with enchanting beaches and a laid-back vibe. Don't miss boat rides around the island – taking in mangroves, reefs, oysters and the quiet village of Boipeba.

Detour west to the tranquil diamond-mining town of **Lençóis**, which has pretty outdoor cafes, cobblestone streets, and caves, rivers and waterfalls nearby. From here, head into the **Parque Nacional da Chapada Diamantina** for crisp mountain streams, panoramic views and an endless network of trails. Back on the coast, go north to **Maceió**, a vibrant, youthful city with gorgeous beaches nearby. Keep going north to reach **Olinda**, one of Brazil's best-preserved colonial cities and a Unesco World Heritage site. From Olinda's buzzing neighbor **Recife**, fly out to **Fernando de Noronha**, an exquisite archipelago of rich marine life and splendid beaches.

Returning to the mainland, visit **Praia da Pipa**, then hit the coastline stretching from **Natal** to Jericoacoara, including the coastal spots of **São Miguel do Gostoso** and **Galinhos**. In the sandy-street village of **Jericoacoara**, try your hand at sandboarding, kitesurfing and beachfront capoeira, and watch memorable sunsets. West of Jericoacoara, **Parque Nacional dos Lençóis Maranhenses** is a striking landscape of dunes, lagoons and beaches. Continue west to the reggae-charged **São Luís**, home to 18th-century buildings, seafood restaurants and buzzing nightlife. It's worth planning a trip around one of the town's many folkloric fests. The last stop is the untouristy colonial gem of **Alcântara**.



Top: Praia da Pipa
(p525)

Bottom: Street scene,
Salvador (p399)



MAREMAGNUM / GETTY IMAGES ©



Waterways of the Amazon

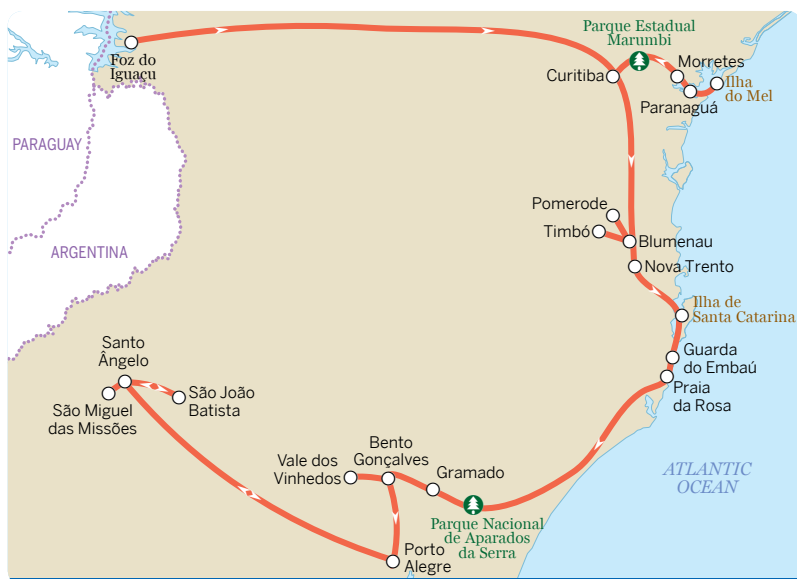
Few places ignite the imagination like the Amazon. The largest forest on the planet has an incredible array of plant and animal life. Surprising to many visitors, these wetlands also contain vibrant cities, architectural treasures and beautiful river beaches.

Begin in **Belém**, a culturally rich city at the mouth of the great river. Explore the revitalized riverfront docks, visit the waterfront market, sample Amazonian dishes and catch a performance at the lavish Teatro da Paz. From here, explore the forest-covered island of **Ilha de Marajó**, which has bird-filled forests, friendly locals and itinerant water buffalo roaming the streets. Back in Belém, dip south to **Palmas**, another ultra-planned city like Brasília, and jumping-off point for rugged **Parque Estadual Jalapão**.

Get a hammock and prepare yourself for a few hardy days of boat travel up the Amazon River. Stop in **Monte Alegre** to see ancient rock paintings, the oldest-known human creations in the Amazon, which are sprinkled among sandstone hills beyond town. Upstream is **Santarém**, a pleasant city with many nearby attractions. Also reachable is the rainforest of the **Floresta Nacional (FLONA) do Tapajós**, where you can lodge in simple pousadas and hike through pristine forest in search of massive *samaúma* trees. It's also worth stopping in **Alter do Chão** for its picturesque lagoon with startling white-sand beaches.

Continue upriver to **Manaus**, Amazonia's largest city. Visit the city's opera house, market, indigenous museums and nature parks, and the Encontro das Águas. From here, go west of Manaus to the small town of **Novo Airão**, the jumping-off point to **Reserva Baixo Rio Branco-Jaupet**, a remote and pristine rainforest reserve where you can see a stunning array of plant and animal life. You can also travel to **Santa Elena de Uairén**, Venezuela, for six-day treks up **Mt Roraima**. West of Manaus lies the fairly unexplored **Parque Nacional do Jaú**.

Outside of **Tefé**, visit the **Mamirauá Reserve**, a vast rainforest reserve where you can see dolphins, sloths, macaws, various monkey species (including the rare uakari) and other wildlife. From there, continue by river to **Tabatinga**, and into **Leticia** in Colombia for stays at jungle lodges along the Rio Javari.



Southward Bound

This trip through Brazil's southernmost states takes in forested islands and scenic beaches, mountainous national parks, historic missions and Bavarian-style towns with largely European roots.

Start in **Foz do Iguaçu** to gaze at the most impressive waterfalls on the planet. Take short day trips to Argentina and Paraguay to get a taste of lush rainforests before heading east (by overnight bus or quick flight) to **Curitiba**, a city with an intriguing environmentally friendly design, plus pretty botanic gardens and an Oscar Niemeyer museum. Next, take the scenic train ride to the sleepy waterfront town of **Morretes**. From there you can visit the **Parque Estadual Marumbi**, a lush reserve that offers memorable walks amid the highlands. Continue on to **Paranaguá** to car-free **Ilha do Mel**. The forest-covered island has lovely beaches and low-key guesthouses, and is skirted by some pretty trails.

Next head to **Blumenau** and nearby **Vale Europeu**, where **Pomerode**, **Timbó** and **Nova Trento** boast Teutonic architecture and a local brew more Bavarian than Brazilian. Head back east to the coast and continue south to **Ilha de Santa Catarina**, a forested gem of sand dunes, sparkling beaches, pretty lagoons and sleepy fishing villages. Keep going south to **Guarda do Embaú**, a seaside bohemian town with excellent surf. A short jaunt south is **Praia da Rosa**, which has pretty beaches and whale watching.

On into Rio Grande do Sul, explore the dramatic canyon and waterfalls of **Parque Nacional de Aparados da Serra**. It's worth heading further inland to **Gramado**, a charming mountain resort where gourmet chocolates, fondue and excellent infrastructure might make you feel like you've stepped into a Swiss portal. Continue west to **Bento Gonçalves**, gateway to the award-winning vineyards of the **Vale dos Vinhedos**, set amid the rolling hills of the Serra Gaúcha.

Head south to **Porto Alegre** for transport to **Santo Ângelo**, which leads on to the Jesuit missions. From there you can visit **São Miguel das Missões**, **São João Batista** and numerous other holy sites; true grail-seekers can even cross into Paraguay or Argentina for a look at even more Jesuit missions. At trip's end, return to Porto Alegre for an onward flight.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/Subte station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



Anna Kaminski

Mato Grosso & Mato Grosso do Sul Anna has been traveling extensively around Latin America for the last 15 years, ever since she'd begun majoring in the turbulent history of the continent at university, and in Brazil for over a decade, drawn by the sheer diversity of the country, the lust for life of its people and the *rodízios* at their *churrascaria* restaurants. Having previously gone in search of big cats in various parts of the Amazon, she finds that the

Pantanal trumps the lot: on this visit alone she had three jaguar sightings. Anna tweets at @ACKaminski.



Kevin Raub

São Paulo State, Paraná, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasília & Goiás, Pernambuco, Paraíba & Rio Grande do Norte, Ceará, Piauí & Maranhão Kevin grew up in Atlanta and started his career as a music journalist in New York, working for *Men's Journal* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. He ditched the rock 'n' roll lifestyle for travel writing and moved to Brazil, where he has now traversed 21 of 26 Brazilian states in pursuit of *caipirinha* bliss.

He was also LP's man on the ground for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. This is Kevin's 35th Lonely Planet guide. Follow him on Twitter (@RaubOnTheRoad).



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Regis St Louis

Rio de Janeiro City Regis first visited Brazil back in 2003, and he fell hard for Rio de Janeiro: its stunning landscapes, dynamic music scene, and the open and celebratory spirit of the *cariocas*. Since then he's traveled all across the country, celebrating Carnaval in Bahia, Ouro Preto and Rio, watching wildlife in the Pantanal, hunting for the perfect beach in Santa Catarina and traveling the length of the Brazilian Amazon. His writing has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Telegraph*, on BBC.com and elsewhere. He is also the coordinating author of Lonely Planet's *Rio de Janeiro* guide and *South America on a Shoestring*. He splits his time between New Orleans and the tropics. Regis also wrote the Plan Your Trip, Understand and Survival chapters.



Gary Chandler

The Amazon Gary has traveled and written about Latin America for two decades. He has contributed to over twenty guidebooks to the region, including El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, and Guatemala. He first covered the Amazon for Lonely Planet in 2004—this assignment marks his fifth time back. Gary was raised in a small California ski town, attended UC Berkeley and Columbia University, and now lives with his wife and fellow travel writer, Liza Prado, and their two children

in Denver, Colorado.



Gregor Clark

Rio de Janeiro State, Minas Gerais & Espírito Santo Gregor's love of all things Brazilian began with his first Portuguese class at age 19. In a quarter century of Brazilian travel, he's visited virtually every state from the Amazon to the Uruguayan border. Highlights of this research trip include spotting wolves and monkeys with his two teenage daughters, climbing Papagaio and Mamangá peaks, and writing by firelight on chilly Visconde de Mauá evenings. Gregor contributes

regularly to Lonely Planet's European and Latin American titles. He lives in Vermont (USA).



Bridget Gleeson

Bahia, Sergipe & Alagoas Based in Buenos Aires, Bridget is a travel writer and occasional photographer. She's traveled all over South America for work and for pleasure, but Bahia is still one of her favorite places on the continent. This was her third time covering the region for Lonely Planet.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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