

# Ipanema & Leblon

IPANEMA | LEBLON

## Neighborhood Top Five

**1** Frolicking in the waves, sipping refreshing *matê* (sweetened tea) and watching the passing people parade on lovely **Ipanema beach** (p58).

**2** Joining fishermen, couples and tourists on rocky **Ponta do Arpoador** (p59) for the nightly spectacle of sunset.

**3** Learning about the craftsmanship involved in reshaping rare stones at the **Museu H Stern** (p59).

**4** Gazing out over the length of Leblon and Ipanema at the **Mirante do Leblon** (p59).

**5** Catching a live concert at the handsomely located **Studio RJ** (p71).



For more detail of this area see Map p228 and p232 →

## Explore Ipanema & Leblon

The favored address for young, beautiful and wealthy *cariocas* (residents of Rio), these twin neighborhoods boast magnificent beach and tree-lined streets full of enticing open-air cafes, restaurants and bars. They're also the epicenter of the city's high-end shopping, with dozens of colorful boutiques and multistory *galerias* (shopping centers) selling pretty things that can quickly deplete a budget. While traditional sights are few, you can frolic on the beach and explore the leafy streets. Ipanema is also Rio's gay district, which revolves around the cafe and bar scene on and near Rua Farma de Amoedo.

Ipanema acquired international fame in the early '60s as the home of the bossa nova character 'Girl from Ipanema.' It became the hangout of artists, intellectuals and wealthy liberals, who frequented the sidewalk cafes and bars. These days, the artists and intellectuals have moved on, and the area is better known for its high-priced apartments and luxury lifestyle. This is, after all, Rio's most affluent district. While few *cariocas* can afford to live here, the streets and beach attract a wide cross-section of society, from surf kids from the outskirts to long-time residents and fashion-conscious 20- and 30-somethings who pack the open-sided bars by night. Ipanema and Leblon are among the city's top destinations for dining and drinking.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Markets** The Hippie Fair (p72), held on Sundays on Praça General Osório, features handicrafts, artwork, souvenirs and tasty Bahian street food.
- ➔ **Restaurant Strips** Rua Dias Ferreira in Leblon is packed with tempting restaurants, and makes a fine setting to explore your options.
- ➔ **Hangouts** The Cobal do Leblon (p70) is a market by day and a festive drinking spot by night. Jobi (p70) draws the late-night drinking crowd.
- ➔ **Rainy-Day Escapes** Shopping Leblon (p74) has plenty of rainy-day amusement; top-end shops, a movie theater and good restaurants – some with views.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Botafogo (574); Corcovado train station (570); Urca (512); Copacabana (570); São Conrado (177); Centro (132); Novo Rio bus station (474).
- ➔ **Metro** Ipanema/General Osório.
- ➔ **Metrol na Superfície** 'Metro buses' connect Ipanema/General Osório station with western Ipanema and Leblon. Find them on Rua Prudente de Morais.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

On Sundays, the east-bound lane of the beach road closes to traffic, and fills with cyclists, joggers and in-line skaters. It's a great time to go for a run (all the way up through Copacabana to Leme for the ambitious).

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Zazá Bistrô Tropical (p65)
- ➔ Zuka (p67)
- ➔ Bazzar (p64)
- ➔ Sushi Leblon (p67)
- ➔ Azul Marinho (p64)
- ➔ Market (p63)

For reviews, see p59 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Devassa (p70)
- ➔ Bar Astor (p70)
- ➔ Barzin (p67)
- ➔ Empório (p67)
- ➔ Academia da Cachaça (p70)
- ➔ Delirium Cafe (p70)

For reviews, see p67 ➔

## Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Gilson Martins (p72)
- ➔ Osklen (p73)
- ➔ Maria Oiticica (p74)
- ➔ Aquim (p72)
- ➔ Forum (p73)

For reviews, see p72 ➔