



## Brazil



# BRAZIL

The long-lasting impression most visitors leave Brazil with is of carefree, colourful people dancing and celebrating in the street parades at Carnival, and of a passion for life and exuberance of spirit that charms visitors from around the world. Tourists descending on the country's fabulous cities, such as hedonistic Rio de Janeiro, can enjoy the five-star hotels, shopping malls, beautiful beaches, sunny skies and inspirational restaurants without really having to confront the hundreds of shantytowns (favelas) where the poorest of the poor eke out a living in the shadows of the skyscrapers.



Palms on a Brazilian beach © F H Mira

With booming mining, agricultural and manufacturing sectors, Brazil has the highest GDP in Latin America and is expected to be one of the world's dominant economies by the middle of this century. Brazil also caters well for business tourism and is a favoured destination for conventions, congresses and expos, particularly the city of Sao Paulo, which is the country's largest city and the business capital of Brazil.

Being so vast, larger than continental United States, Brazil offers a variety of cultures and topographies. The range is evident in the contrast of the Amazon rain forest to the mountain towns of Minas Gerais, the urban jungle of Sao Paulo and the vast central plateau around Brasilia and the world-famous beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema. It all adds up to an exotic and exciting Latin American mix where the common denominators are samba, sunshine, sultry smiles and soccer.

## Basics

**Time:** Brazil spans four time zones: Rio and Sao Paulo: GMT -2 (GMT -3 April to October); Brasilia and Belm: GMT -3 (GMT -2 October to March); GMT -4 in the West.

**Electricity:** Brazil has a variety of electrical voltages, sometimes within the same city, the better hotels offer 220 volts. If not, transformers are available in electrical stores. Outlets often accept a variety of plug types but the two-pin type is standard.

**Money:** The Brazilian monetary unit is the real (BRL), plural reais. There are 100 centavos to the real. The US dollar is also welcome in most tourist establishments. In the main cities foreign currencies and travellers cheques can be exchanged at banks or *cambios*. There is an extensive network of ATMs in the country and most major international credit cards are accepted.

Currency Exchange Rates				
BRL1.00	BRL5.00	BRL10.00	BRL100.00	BRL1,000.00
A\$ 0.44	A\$ 2.20	A\$ 4.41	A\$ 44.06	A\$ 440.65
C\$ 0.38	C\$ 1.88	C\$ 3.77	C\$ 37.68	C\$ 376.79
€ 0.24	€ 1.21	€ 2.42	€ 24.17	€ 241.68
NZ\$ 0.54	NZ\$ 2.70	NZ\$ 5.41	NZ\$ 54.06	NZ\$ 540.59
R 2.74	R 13.71	R 27.42	R 274.24	R 2,742.42
£ 0.21	£ 1.05	£ 2.11	£ 21.09	£ 210.91
US\$ 0.34	US\$ 1.68	US\$ 3.36	US\$ 33.63	US\$ 336.27

Note: These rates are not updated daily and should be used as a guideline only.

**Language:** The spoken language in Brazil is Portuguese, however Spanish and English are also used in the cities.

**Entry requirements for Americans:** A valid passport and a visa are required by US nationals; both single and multiple entry visas are available. Visas must be used within 90 days of issuance.

**Entry requirements for UK nationals:** UK passport holders do not require a visa for either business or holiday travel for stays of up to 90 days from date of issue. A valid passport is required.

**Entry requirements for Canadians:** A valid passport and a visa are required by Canadian nationals; both single and multiple entry visas are available. Visas must be used within 90 days of issuance.

**Entry requirements for Australians:** A valid passport and a visa are required by Australian nationals; both single and multiple entry visas are available. Visas must be used within 90 days of issuance.

**Entry requirements for South Africans:** A valid passport is needed, but no visa is required by South African nationals if travelling on holiday or business for up to 90 days from date of issue.

**Entry requirements for New Zealanders:** New Zealanders need a valid passport, but no visa is required for a stay of up to 90 days from date of issue, for touristic or business purposes.

**Entry requirements for Irish nationals:** Irish nationals need a valid passport, but do not require a tourist or business visa for stays of up to 90 days from date of issue.

**Passport/Visa Note:** All visitors require passports that are valid for at least the period of intended stay in Brazil. Sufficient funds to cover their stay in Brazil, as well as a return or onward ticket and documentation required for further travel, are necessary for all travellers.

**Health:** There have been confirmed cases of Swine Flu in Brazil. Mosquito-borne diseases like dengue fever and malaria are prevalent in Brazil. Insect repellent and protective clothing is essential. Malaria exists below 2,953ft (900m) in most rural areas, and outbreaks of dengue fever occur frequently. A yellow fever vaccination is recommended for those travelling to rural areas and other parts of the country as a yellow fever outbreak occurred at the beginning of 2008. Visitors travelling from infected areas outside the country require a yellow fever certificate. Chagas disease, caused by a parasite, is widespread in rural areas of Brazil. Until recently infection was believed to be from insect bites only, but an outbreak in March 2005 caused three deaths in Santa Catarina and was traced to the ingestion of sugar cane juice contaminated with the faeces of vector insects, and further cases were linked to the ingestion of bacaba wine from roadside stalls; visitors are advised to seek medical advice urgently if any of the symptoms occur (fever, nausea, muscle aches and pains and/or swelling at the site of the insect bite). Tap water is heavily treated resulting in a strong chemical taste; bottled water is, however, freely available for drinking purposes. Milk in rural areas is not pasteurised. Travellers are advised to take along medication for travellers' diarrhoea. Hospitals in the major cities are fairly good, but medical costs are high and medical insurance is strongly recommended.

**Tippling:** Nearly all hotels add a service charge to the bill, usually 10%. Most restaurants also add 10% or more to the total of the bill, but must make it clear that they have done so; waiters appreciate another 5% if their service has been good. Otherwise, a 10-15% tip is customary. Brazilians don't normally tip taxi drivers, except if they handle bags, although they may round up the total. Hotel staff expect small tips and most other services are rewarded with a 10-15% tip.

**Climate:** Brazil's weather is quite diverse as there are five different climatic regions: equatorial, tropical, semi-arid, highland tropical and subtropical. The seasons are the reverse of those in Europe and the United States. Cities such as Sao Paulo and Brasilia, on the plateau, have a mild climate with temperatures averaging 66°F (19°C). Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Natal and Salvador on the coast have warmer climates balanced by the Trade Winds. Rio, for example, has an average temperature of around 80°F (26°C), which will climb to over 100°F (38°C) during the summer months. In the southern Brazilian cities of Porto Alegre and Curitiba, the subtropical climate is similar to parts of the US and Europe, with frosts occurring in the winter months (July to August) when temperatures can fall below freezing. Summers are hot, however. Despite the popular image of the Amazon as a region of blistering heat, temperatures rarely rise above 90°F (32°C), and days are generally warm, wet and humid. The region has two seasons: a rainy season (November to May) and not-so-rainy season (June to October).

**Safety:** Brazil is politically stable with no natural enemies and no terrorist activities. In metropolitan areas, however, petty crime is a fact of life. Rio in particular is regarded as one of the most crime-ridden cities in the world and, although violent crime is generally limited to the slum areas, foreigners are advised to take precautions. Visitors should not attempt to visit slum areas unless on a guided tour. However violent crime is on the increase due to the establishment of drug and criminal gangs around Rio and Sao Paulo. Muggings, often involving firearms, are high and visitors should avoid wearing jewellery and expensive watches, dress down and conceal cameras. Valuables should be deposited in hotel safes. The threat of personal attack is lower outside the main urban centres, but incidents do occur, and women should be aware that sexual assaults have been reported in coastal holiday destinations. Beware of unofficial taxis and those with blacked-out windows and be particularly careful on public transport in Rio, Recife and Salvador. Armed criminals intercepted a taxi carrying foreigners at night from Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport to central Rio in May 2006; incidents like this occur at random along this road, particularly at night.

**Customs:** Brazilian culture is European based and most social customs will be familiar to visitors.

**Business:** Generally business practices are different throughout the country: very formal in Sao Paulo, but more relaxed in Rio de Janeiro and other centres. Multi-national companies have similar business etiquette to Europe or the US, while local businesses require a few more considerations, particularly preferring face-to-face meetings above phone calls or written communication. Brazilians place a very high value on personal relationships within business environments and will generally only conduct business through personal connections or with those whom they have already established a personal relationship. All meetings are preceded by handshakes and small talk, and visitors should avoid the temptation to rush things; even after the meeting is over it is considered rude to rush off. Entertaining is common, either at a restaurant or someone's home, again with the emphasis on building personal relationships. Punctuality is flexible, except when meeting at a restaurant, when tardiness is considered impolite, and a small gift or flowers for the hostess is common when invited to a home. Business suits are expected, especially for first meetings. Portuguese is the dominant language, and although English is widely spoken in business an interpreter might be required. Business cards, as well as written documents, should be printed in both English and Portuguese. Business hours are 8.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

**Communications:** The international access code for Brazil is +55. The outgoing code depends on what network is used (e.g. 0014 for Brasil Telecom), which is followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 001444 for the United Kingdom). The area code for Brasilia is 61, but the access code to make a call within the country from another area also depends on what network is used (e.g. (014)61 for Brasil Telecom). GSM 900 and 1800 mobile phone

networks cover the main cities, and phones are available to rent. Internet cafes are widely available. Every town has a central telephone office called a Posto Telefonico, from where long distance calls can be made, and public phone booths are everywhere, operated by phone cards. For cheaper calls, visitors can connect to an operator at home and place a credit card or collect call. Sending mail overseas is expensive, but the postal system is generally reliable.

**Duty Free:** Travellers to Brazil can enter the country with 400 cigarettes or 25 cigars; 2 litres of alcoholic beverages and goods to the value of US\$500, without incurring customs duty. Restricted items include fresh produce, meat and dairy products. Strict regulations apply to temporary import or export of firearms, antiques, tropical plants, medication and business equipment.

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## RIO DE JANEIRO

Mention Rio to anyone and immediately the name evokes images of sultry street parades, the Sugarloaf Mountain, Corcovado Christ statue and the 'itsy-bitsy teeny weeny' bikinis on the beach at Ipanema. The exuberant cultural capital of Brazil is tucked between the mountains and the sea and is endowed with a natural beauty that ranges from the beaches to the mountain peaks. It also contains the biggest urban forest in the world, the Tijuca Forest, which was completely replanted during the second half of the 19th century.

The Rio de Janeiro coastline  
© Hank LeClair

The city throbs to the infectious beat of Brazilian music, the choro, the samba and the bossa nova, and is the main source of Brazil's national culture. Its annual carnival, known simply as Carnival, draws together the population of the city (known as the 'Cariocas') ranging from rich to very poor who take to the streets for the world's largest samba parade on the Sambodromo.

The city is capital of the state of Rio de Janeiro, which encompasses most of Brazil's major tourist attractions.

Rio is a never-ending story made up of 150 districts each characterised by unique features, like Santa Teresa, which is reached by taking an old tram across an ancient aqueduct called Arcos da Lapa. In the central city area Rio boasts historic monuments and public buildings like the Municipal Theatre, the National Museum of Fine Art, the Itamaraty Palace, the National History Museum and the National Library. There are also beautiful examples of religious architecture such as the Sao Bento Monastery. No matter how long you spend exploring the city, it will always deliver new surprises.

To the north of the city is the Lakes region, which has more than 62 miles (100km) of beaches and sea-water lagoons and is the site of the main tourist resorts of Búzios, Cabo Frio, Arrial do Cabo, Rio das Ostras, Marica and Saquarema.

## Attractions

### Corcovado

The distinctive statue of Christ the Redeemer, arms spread to welcome the world, is the symbol of Rio de Janeiro and one of the seven New Wonders of the Modern World. It rests on top of Rio de Janeiro's Corcovado Mountain, 2,330ft (710m) above the beaches below, and is accessed via a miniature train that runs from the Cosme Velho District through the Atlantic rainforest to the foot of the statue. The train ride offers stunning vistas of Rio, and the view from the summit is breathtaking. Spread out beneath the statue is the Tijuca Forest, resplendent with attractions to enchant visitors in the cool of the rainforest among natural pools and waterfalls. There is for example the Mayrink chapel, which features murals painted by Candido Portinari, one of Brazil's best known modern artists, and the Museu do Acude, housing colonial furniture and a collection of china from the East India Company.

**Address:** Corcovado Railroad Station. Rua Cosme Velho 513, Cosme Velho; **Telephone:** (21) 2461 2700; **Website:** [www.corcovado.com.br](http://www.corcovado.com.br); **Opening time:** Daily 8.30am to 6.30pm. Departs every 30 minutes; **Admission:** R\$45 round trip on train

### Sugar Loaf

The summit of Rio's unique 1,299ft high (396m) belvedere, named Sugar Loaf because of its resemblance to the loaves of sugar used by the Portuguese colonists, can be reached by a two-stage cable car ride. The first stage takes visitors up 722ft (220m) to the Morro da Urca, where there is a restaurant, amphitheatre, heliport and spectacular view of the Yacht Club and Botafogo Bay. The second stage takes one the rest of the way to the summit for a panoramic view of the city, and the whole of Copacabana beach. The Sugar Loaf cable car is a major icon of Rio's tourism.

**Address:** Avenue Pasteur 520, Praia Vermelha; **Telephone:** (21) 2546 8400; **Website:** [www.bondinho.com.br](http://www.bondinho.com.br); **Opening time:** Daily 8am to 7.50pm; **Admission:** Cable Car R\$44 (adults), R\$22 (children 6-12)

## Botanical Gardens

Rio's Botanical Gardens were created in 1808 by the Prince Regent of Portugal as a temporary site for acclimatising imported plants. Today it is home to some 2,600 species of plant life, particularly bromeliads and orchids. Colour is added to the botanical treasures by a wealth of wildlife, such as Toucans, Tanagers, Marmoset monkeys and brilliantly coloured butterflies.

**Address:** Rua Jardim Botânico; **Telephone:** (21) 2294 9349; **Opening time:** Daily 8am to 5pm; **Admission:** R\$4

## Ipanema

Immortalised in a popular song, 'The girl from Ipanema', this part of Rio offers not only its legendary beach, but numerous excellent hotels, bustling nightlife, sophisticated shopping opportunities and quality restaurants, all within walking distance of each other. Ipanema (the name, incongruously, means 'bad water') is famous for setting fashion trends, particularly in the line of skimpy swimwear, and fashion fundis should look out for the famous bikini boutiques like *Salinas*, *Blue Man* and *Bum-Bum*. Also do not miss exploring the Rua Garcia D'Avila to shop for designer fashion, jewellery and furniture. Visit the Amsterdam Sauer Museum of Gems here for a workshop tour. There are numerous other streets in Ipanema to explore as well, including the attractive commercial street Visconde de Pirajá that is lined with speciality shops, bars, restaurants and some of Rio's best boutiques. Visit the hippie fair at General Osorio Square on Sundays for wooden sculptures, handcrafts, exotic musical instruments and artworks.

## Copacabana

This famous Rio beach neighbourhood was just a small fishing village until a new highway changed the face of it sometime in the 1900s. The Copacabana Palace Hotel first opened its doors in 1923, and since then the area mushroomed with Neoclassical and Art Nouveau skyscrapers, penthouses and apartments. Visitors still flock, as they have always done, to the glamorous Palace Hotel, the place to be seen. Sometimes the visit is only to have tea or a meal at the famed Cipriani restaurant. The beach itself has white sand and calm water and is festooned with kiosks. It is a popular spot for beach sports like soccer and volleyball, and a good place to sunbathe. Copacabana beach is particularly popular on New Year's. According to tradition, visitors dress in white and congregate here to celebrate in their droves, counting more than two million people during this time.

## Buzios Peninsula

Once the preserve of pirates and slave traders, the peninsula of Buzios, 105 miles (169km) north east of Rio, is today the haunt of the rich and famous who flock to the city (once a fishing village) to enjoy the 20 or so beaches in the vicinity. The peninsula was popularised by legendary movie star Brigitte Bardot in the 1960s, and her statue still graces the main street of Buzios, the Rua des Pedras. The peninsula is a sophisticated beach resort with a very active nightlife and fine restaurants. The west coast beaches offer calm, clear waters while the east coast ones, facing the open sea, are a little wilder and draw the surfers and water sports enthusiasts. Among the most popular beaches are Azeda Beach, Joao Fernandinho Beach with several bars and known for its seafood, Ferradura Beach, and Geriba beach, popular for surfing.

**Website:** [www.buziosonline.com.br](http://www.buziosonline.com.br); **Transport:** Buzios can be reached by road from Rio via the Rio-Niteroi toll bridge, or by bus from the Novo Rio Bus Station

## Iguaçu Falls

The Rio Iguaçu arises in the coastal mountains of Paraná and Santa Catarina and snakes west for 370 miles (600km) before it widens majestically and sweeps around a magnificent jungle stage, plunging and crashing in tiered falls at the border with Argentina and Paraguay. The Foz do Iguaçu (Iguaçu Falls) are over two miles (3km) wide and 262ft (80m) high and their beauty is unsurpassed. Their name, fittingly, comes from the Guarani Indian word meaning 'great waters'. The deep flowing waters of the river tumble down 275 falls (almost twice the height of Niagara Falls) the most famous of which is Devils Throat on the Argentinian border, dropping 230ft (70m). As well as taking in the stunning views, visitors can enjoy kayaking and other watersports in the river. The best time of year to visit is August to November, when there is least risk of floodwaters hindering the approach to the catwalks. The falls are surrounded by the Iguaçu National Park, a huge sub-tropical rainforest covering 135,000 acres that is home to thousands of different species of flora and birds including parrots and hummingbirds.

**Transport:** The easiest way to get to the falls is by air from Rio. Alternatively you can take a bus via Curitiba

## Estádio do Maracanã

Built over 50 years ago for use in the Soccer World Cup, this stadium is the largest on the continent, seating a crowd of over 95,000. The stadium is currently used to host the local soccer league games, and is the home of the Brazilian soccer team. The Maracana is also often used by international acts visiting Brazil as a performance venue - Madonna and Sir Paul McCartney being among the big names who have played here. Inside the ground is a Hall of Fame honouring soccer greats such as Pele, Roberto Dinamite, Romário, Valdo and Bebeto all of whom have

been honoured by having their footprints cast in the sidewalk. A guided tour will take you through the hall, where you can enjoy a display of historical photographs and a great panoramic view of the city.

**Address:** Rua Professor Eurico Rabelo; **Opening time:** 9am to 5pm daily; **Admission:** R\$20

### Tijuca Forest

The world's largest urban forest, Tijuca spans 7,900 acres (3,200ha) and sits on Rio's doorstep. Inside the forest, walkabouts will lead you past caves, waterfalls and an abundance of exotic and rare flora and fauna. Stop and enjoy a pre-packed lunch at the 'Mesa do Imperador', a massive granite picnic table. The famous Corovado Mountain and statue of Christ the Redeemer form part of the forest.

**Address:** Alto da Boa Vista; **Opening time:** 8.30am to 6.30pm daily

### Rio Scenarium

The most festive spot in what is arguably the most festive city in the world. Rio Scenarium is a three floor dance club dedicated to sultry, sweaty summer salsa nights. The decor is interesting, set in an abandoned antiques warehouse, the club is adorned by movie props and other oddities. Live acts and dance events take place regularly at the club.

**Address:** 20 Rua do Lavradio; **Telephone:** (0)21 3147 9000

## SAO PAULO

Originally a mission station set up in 1554 by Jesuit priests on the banks of the Rio Tiete, the city of Sao Paulo is today an awesome megalopolis, the industrial and commercial powerhouse of Brazil. The city grew wealthy on coffee cultivation in the mid-19th century, thanks to the rich soil of the region, and the plantation owners took up residence in the bustling regional centre. Gradually the coffee barons diversified their interests and invested some of their wealth in local industry, resulting in a demand for labour and a resultant surge in immigrant population. Today 16-million proud 'Paulistanos' live in the congested, chaotic and cosmopolitan city centre and its sprawling surrounds. Lacking in natural attractions, the city's leisure pursuits are mainly cultural, and there are some impressive public buildings to delight sightseers.



Sao Paulo Gay Parade © Alessandra Saraiva

## Attractions

### Museu de Arte

A large concrete building supported on delicate pillars in the Avenida Paulista houses an important collection of Western art. This museum features the work of the great European artists from the last 500 years, and hosts visiting exhibitions. It is open every day and entry is free on Thursdays. The complex includes a reasonably priced restaurant.

**Address:** Av. Paulista 1578; **Telephone:** 3251 5644; **Opening time:** Friday to Wednesday, 11am to 6pm. Thursday 11am to 8pm; **Admission:** R\$15 (adults), free for children under 10

### Mercado Municipal

This imposing neo-Gothic style hall, dating from 1933, is the venue for a huge market, which sells local fruit, vegetables, cheese and other produce. The hall is noted for its gigantic stained-glass windows that depict scenes from the coffee plantations and other agricultural pursuits. The building is north of Praca da Se.

**Address:** Rua da Cantareira 306

## Airports

### Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek International Airport (BSB)

**Location:** The airport is situated seven miles (11km) southwest of Brasilia.

**Time:** GMT -2 (GMT -3 between the third Sunday in October to the third Sunday in March).

**Contacts:** Tel: +55 (0)61 364 9000.

**Transfer between terminals:** A shuttle operates between the two terminals.

**Getting to the city:** Buses and minibuses leave regularly from outside the terminal building for the main bus station in the city centre, however taxis are generally the best option.

**Car rental:** There is a range of car rental companies based at the airport.

**Facilities:** The airport is clean and efficient; facilities include banks and a bureau de change, ATMs, a restaurant and 24-hour snack bars, bars, left-luggage facilities, shops and a travel agent. Facilities for the disabled are good.

**Parking:** Long and short-term parking is available.

**Departure Tax:** US\$12 to US\$36 depending on category

**Website:** [www.infraero.gov.br](http://www.infraero.gov.br)

## Galeão Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport (GIG)

**Location:** The airport is located on Governor's Island, 12 miles (20km) north of Rio de Janeiro.

**Time:** GMT -2 (GMT -3 between the third Sunday in October to the third Sunday in March).

**Contacts:** Tel: +55 21 3398 4106, 3398 4208 or 3398 5050.

**Transfer between terminals:** A moving walkway connects the two terminals.

**Getting to the city:** The easiest and fastest transport from the airport is by taxi. Taxi vouchers should be bought from the Rio de Janeiro State Tourism Authority desk in the arrivals terminal to avoid any hassle and should cost about US\$25. Public buses are available and passengers can connect to Rio's Novo Rio Rodoviaria bus station in the city centre. Fares are roughly US\$3. More expensive airport shuttles are available to downtown hotels and popular destinations but can have an English speaking guide.

**Car rental:** Car rental companies, including Avis and Hertz can be found in Terminal 1.

**Airport Taxis:** Taxis are available outside the terminal. Visitors are advised to buy prepaid taxi vouchers at the Rio Tourism Authority desk; they are usually a little bit more expensive but give you peace of mind. It is advisable to ignore the RDE taxi desk and go to the Rio de Janeiro State Tourism Authority desk instead and buy prepaid taxi vouchers there. If you hail a taxi outside the terminal make sure the metre is cleared of the last fare.

**Facilities:** The airport is well equipped with facilities including ATMs, banks and bureaux de change, shops, restaurants and bars, duty-free shopping, luggage lockers and a tourist help desk. Facilities for the disabled are good.

**Parking:** A multi-storey carpark is available.

**Departure Tax:** US\$12 to US\$36 depending on category

**Website:** [www.infraero.gov.br](http://www.infraero.gov.br)

## Guarulhos International Airport (GRU)

**Location:** The airport is located 16 miles (30km) northeast of Sao Paulo.

**Time:** GMT -2 (GMT -3 between the third Sunday in October to the third Sunday in March).

**Contacts:** Tel: +55 (0)11 6445 2945.

**Transfer between terminals:** The airport has two terminals, which are within easy walking distance of each other.

**Getting to the city:** Taxis are available outside the terminals; visitors are advised to take the prepaid taxis, they are usually a little more expensive but give peace of mind. There is also an airport shuttle bus, which drops off at the main hotels. Public buses are also available.

**Car rental:** Car hire companies include Avis and Hertz.

**Facilities:** There are a number of bars, restaurants and shops at the airport. There are banks, currency exchange bureaux and ATMs. There is duty-free shopping before customs for Arrivals, as well as tourist information desks, business facilities and two conference rooms.

**Parking:** Long and short-term parking is available.

**Departure Tax:** US\$12 to US\$36 depending on category

**Website:** [www.infraero.gov.br](http://www.infraero.gov.br)

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## Brazil Climate and Weather

Brazil's weather is quite diverse as there are five different climatic regions: equatorial, tropical, semi-arid, highland tropical and subtropical. The seasons are the reverse of those in Europe and the United States. Cities such as Sao Paulo and Brasilia, on the plateau, have a mild climate with temperatures averaging 66°F (19°C). Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Natal and Salvador on the coast have warmer climates balanced by the Trade Winds. Rio, for example, has an average temperature of around 80°F (26°C), which will climb to over 100°F (38°C) during the summer months. In the southern Brazilian cities of Porto Alegre and Curitiba, the subtropical climate is similar to parts of the US and Europe, with frosts occurring in the winter months (July to August) when temperatures can fall below freezing. Summers are hot, however. Despite the popular image of the Amazon as a region of blistering heat, temperatures rarely rise above 90°F (32°C), and days are generally warm, wet and humid. The region has two seasons: a rainy season (November to May) and not-so-rainy season (June to October).

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The climate of Sao Paulo may not be as congenial as other Brazilian cities, but it is warm and sunny enough by world standards. The weather remains mild to warm all year round, the lowest temperatures of around 54°F (12°C) being experienced during July and the maximum of around 82°F (27°C) being enjoyed during the hottest month of February. Sao Paulo receives around 53 inches (135cm) of rain a year, mostly during the summer months.

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### **Tourism**

EMBRATUR (Brazilian Tourist Board), Brasilia +55 (61) 3429 7774 or [www.braziltour.com](http://www.braziltour.com)

### **Brazil Embassies**

Brazilian Embassy, Washington DC, United States: +1 202 238 2805

Brazilian Embassy, London, United Kingdom: +44 (0)20 7399 9000

Brazilian Embassy, Ottawa, Canada: +1 613 237 1090.

Brazilian Embassy, Canberra, Australia: +61 (0)2 6273 2372.

Brazilian Embassy, Pretoria, South Africa: +27 (0)12 366 5200.

Brazilian Embassy, Dublin, Ireland: +353 (0)1 475 6000.

Brazilian Embassy, Wellington, New Zealand: +64 (0)4 473 3516.

### **Foreign Embassies in Brazil**

United States Embassy, Brasilia: +55 (61) 3312 7000.

British Embassy, Brasilia: +55 (61) 3329 2300.

Canadian Embassy, Brasilia: +55 (61) 3424 5400.

Australian Embassy, Brasilia: +55 (61) 3226 3111.

South African Embassy, Brasilia: +55 (61) 3312 9500.

Irish Embassy, Brasilia: +55 (61) 3248 8800.

New Zealand Embassy, Brasilia: +55 (61) 3248 9900.

### **Brazil Emergency Numbers**

Emergencies: 190 (police), 192 (ambulance).

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