

I BELIEVE RIO IS THE FUNNEST CITY IN THE WORLD.

Ten years ago I put together a guide for my foreign friends from Chicago and Vienna to read before arriving in Rio, so they could have the best possible time, in case I were out travelling.

They loved it, so I published it. I have been updating and improving it ever since.

I hope this demo version helps convey all the thought and care that went into letting you know where and when to be at every moment of your trip.

If you like this demo, get the full version, it will be the best investment of your trip to Rio.

Sincerely,
Cristiano Nogueira, author
cris@rioforpartiers.com



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BEST NEW TRAVEL GUIDE

Day Tours
Rainy Days
Food Guide
Nightlife
Rio Smarts
Gay Rio
Around Brazil

Rio For Partiers

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WHAT TO BRING

SUMMER CLOTHES

It is constantly hot and humid during the summer months, when you may not even want to wear a pair of pants, let alone a sweater at night. Ladies stick to shorts, skirts, summer dresses, tank tops (vests) and T-shirts. Men stick to sandals, Bermuda shorts and T-shirts.

WINTER CLOTHES

Winter (June to August) in Rio feels like mid-May in the northern part of the US and Europe, or like the beginning of April in the southern part of the US and Europe. Dress accordingly. During a cold night in mid winter, temperatures drop to 60F, 15C

EQUIPMENT

- Sunglasses
- Cheap watch
- Digital camera (the smallest possible)
- Disposable camera (for street events)
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Sunscreen and after-sun
- Cap
- Travel-socket adapter



GSM MOBILE PHONE

A GSM ready cellular phone will help you stay connected

with the world by using the roaming service from Brazilian carriers. If your phone has a built-in camera, even better: take and send pictures and videos to make all your friends instantly jealous. (To learn how to activate your phone in Brazil, see page 28)



BUDGET AND MONEY

Cheap spending (eating at the hostel, few restaurants, no hardcore clubbing, basic tours): US\$75 a day.

Average spending (restaurants and street food, hostel or cheap hotel, most of the tours): US\$130 a day

All-out good living (nice hotel, restaurants, all the tours, clubbing, shopping, massages etc): US\$250 a day

You should bring half of your budget in cash and have the other half available on your credit card.

PETTY CASH

If you are in a group, instead of each person paying for his or her beer, taxi, entrance and other small stuff, why not choose someone to carry the petty cash. Each morning, each member

chips in R\$50 or R\$100.

IDS AND CARDS

- Passport
- Student ID
- Driver's License
- Tourist Visa
- 2 Credit Cards (Visa & Mastercard) Call your card company and let them know you'll be travelling to South America, as they sometimes freeze your card on seeing irregular activity, till you call in to explain.

WHAT YOU DON'T NEED TO BRING

- Towel or swimming gear (you'll look silly, buy it in Rio instead)
- Snorkel or Hawaiian shirts
- Winter jacket
- Laptop
- Black socks

BEFORE FLYING TO BRAZIL

Call the closest Brazilian consulate and check with them about the required vaccines and visas. Check the listing of consulates worldwide at: www.brazil.org.uk



Joatinga Beach (pg. 36)

Emergencies

A visit to Rio is no trip to Disney World. It is a big city, with its fair share of problems. Should you get into an emergency situation, be sure to follow these procedures to get things back to normal.

ILL OR INJURED

Although Rio has some free medical assistance offered by the state, most 1st world visitors may not like the response time Brazilians have become accustomed to. Long waiting lines and lack of English speaking attendants may worsen your medical problem.

Luckily there is a clinic devoted to working with tourists 24 hours a day and in several languages (English, Spanish and French).

They have the necessary infrastructure or partnerships with other clinics to cure what ails you, from simple colds to minor surgery.

Should you need to, they can also visit you at your hotel. What's more, they work with most international health plans and traveler's insurance.

Galdino Campos Clinic

Contact: Ronaldo Galdino Campos
Rua NS Copacabana 492
Tel: 2548-9966
www.galdinocampos.com.br
Member of the International Society of Travel Medicine



STOMACH ACHE

You ate the peppers, right? Or was it the street *caipirinhas* with the questionable ice? We bad mouth it so much, people get curious about them...oh well. What my buddy, who was travelling through India, used to do whenever he got the runs would be to mix a finger of vinegar with a finger of water and gulp it down. That would kill whatever was wreaking havoc in his stomach. He would later drink some yogurt to replace his intestinal flora. Soon he would drink a few coconut waters (*agua de coco*) to rehydrate. Has worked for him and others, but naturally this is something I can't recommend because I'm not a doctor...just a trick I heard.

RIP OFFS

Should you get tricked by any establishment in Rio, whether a tampered taxi, a restaurant waiter or a bait & switch shop, contact me. The only things that boil my blood are poor customer service and paying for dumb movies. I live for this and will try to use all my god-like-powers to put them in their place.

cris@rioformpartiers.com

Always remember to keep the Emergency Contacts Card (see back cover flap) in your pocket.

ROBBED

First say your prayers if you weren't physically assaulted or attacked. Second, hop over to the Tourist Police Station in Leblon (Av. Afranio de Melo 159 or tel: 3399-7170). They may not be able to recoup your belongings, but can issue a police report for insurance purposes and issue an alert to patrol cars to better serve that area.

ARRESTED

Were you a bad boy (or girl)? Or were you set up by "the man"? In either case, nothing like a slick lawyer to squeeze you out of trouble. To find the best one for your needs, contact your consulate (listed in the back cover).

LOST PASSPORT

Should you lose your passport (it shouldn't have left the hotel in the first place), be sure to contact your consulate, as they can produce a quick fix. Check the back cover for a list of local consulates and numbers.

MISSED FLIGHT

Overslept? Unless you are here during high season, you may be able to extend your stay for US\$75 or so. Check the list at the back for the local offices of the major airlines.

Travel Health Tips

INSURANCE

The most common recommendation I hear from doctors that deal with foreign patients is that everyone travelling should have traveller's health insurance. This foresight helps you get attended at hospitals that may come up with excuses as to why they don't want to treat someone who is "promising" they will pay later.

YOUR PILLS

Take your special medication in sufficient quantities for slightly more than the length of your stay, should you get stranded in Rio due to a volcano in Europe or whatnot. Your medication may not exist here, or may have stricter control. If it is very strict or controversial medication, get your doctor's prescription translated to Portuguese, to avoid getting stuck in customs or by the police.

Make sure the medication has your name on it and bring it with your carry-on luggage.

EATING

Take it slow: even though it may all look beautiful and well made, different cultures have slightly different water, oils, climate and seasonings. When all these change at the same time, your body may not know how to adapt in time.

Seafood is great, but only go

for it when you feel confident about its quality and freshness. When in doubt, ask to visit the kitchen (Brazilian law gives all customers this right).

COMMON MEDICINES

- Headache (*Dor de cabeça*) - Aspirin (*aspirina*)
- Hangover (*Ressaca, Mal estar*) - Hangover pill (*Engov*)
- Fever (*Febre*) - Paracetamol (Paracetamol)
- Nausea (*Enjôo*) - Dramamine (*Dramin*)
- Pain (*Dor*) - Dypirone (*Dipirona*) or Paracetamol
- Diarrhea (*Diarréia*) - Floratil (*Floratil*) - Imodium (Imosec)
- Cut (*corte*) - Band-Aid (Band-Aid)
- Sprain (*Contusão*) - Ice (*Gelo*)
- Bruises (*Hematomas*) - Heat pack / cold pack (*Compressa água quente/ Compressa água fria*)
- Vitamin C effervescent tablets (Cebion)

TIPS:

Wash your hands regularly.

Only drink bottled water.

Go easy on seasonings and street fried foods.

When it looks sketchy, stay away from fruit and vegetables and of course, mayo and cream.

Beware of vegetables if the town you are visiting is far from farm areas, like it's in the middle of a dense forest, desert or savannah.

During intense street festivals, opt for manufactured foods and drinks, as the street food might be as old as the festival and the sellers' storage procedures for such high demand may be too lax.

In situations where the food quality looks doubtful, like interstate bus-stations, opt for snacks from major brands like Nestle, Kraft and others. A safer bet may also be cakes, breads and the like, that don't involve meat.

VACCINES

Recommended for Brazil: hepatitis A and B, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, Rabies, Tetanus, Mumps.

Yellow fever is obligatory in Amazonas, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Amapá, Pará, Roraima, Rondônia, Acre e Goiás.

Carry your health plan card with you at all times. After being treated keep the records and receipts for your refund process.

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Copacabana – Rio de Janeiro – RJ
Telephone: + 55 21 2548-9966
Contato Dr. Ronaldo Galdino Campos: + 55 21 9605-3349
www.galdinocampos.com.br
E-mail: clinica@galdinocampos.com.br

SAFETY TIPS

As a general rule, gringos are somewhat untouchable by drug-lord rules. Your chances of being kidnapped, held hostage, etc are a lot smaller than that of an upper class Brazilian. The small fish, such as young pickpockets and out-of-town criminals, take their chances.

Beware on empty streets just as much as at overly crowded events. The new trend in pick pocketing (some new Eastern-European techniques are now arriving in Brazil) is to create a situation in a crowd where your hands are distracted while they go for your pockets.

A good example is the Russian mustard trick, where they put mustard on your head in the subways. While you check to see what the heck is on your head, they go through your pockets.

Another common trick here in Brazil is the “fight breaks out” trick, when right in front of you there is a scuffle in the middle of a crowd. While everyone is being pushed away from the scuffle and while you are holding someone who is being pushed onto you, someone behind you (sometimes a woman) goes through your pockets.

Don't be a hero: if you are held at gun point, slowly pass over the money and leave it at that.

Get the hell out after any dangerous situation: if you manage to stop a pickpocket in his tracks, get out, as his partners may come after you.

Another very common technique is for the crook to rob you while on a bike. They can snatch your cellular phone, necklace or purse while passing by at high speeds.

If you are passing a shady character on an empty street at night, wave an eager “Hi! I'm over here!” to your imaginary friend who's a block away. This should throw a monkey wrench in his scheme at the last second.

Don't trust the cops' intelligence or integrity: if you get pick-pocketed, say “what the hell!” and go on with your tour instead of getting caught up in reporting incidents and other red tape.

Not only is that an exercise in futility, but it will eat up your time and mood. Like a friend of mine said after getting \$200 pick-pocketed in the north of Brazil, “F*ck it! I consider it a small tourist tax” and went back to drinking. Not the best point of view as a long-term philosophy, but it worked fine for that week.



Local



Gringo

How to avoid being a target

As a general rule, you want to dress down. The grungy look will do you good. Since you are on vacation, you don't need to worry about your reputation. Here are some general rules to abide by to better guarantee your safety:

BASEBALL CAPS

Dead give-away.

HAIR CUT

Leave the “bed-head” hair style for the trendier clubs.

ACCENT

When in a crowd of dubious types, keep your talking to a minimum.

SHIRT

T-shirt instead of a Hawaiian shirt, also leave the Brazilian soccer team shirt for when you get back home.

MONEY & IDS

Don't bring too much or too little money, as they will shake you down till they get something. Don't carry a passport, nor all your credit cards or more than R\$200. Bring one major CC and one form of ID: student or state ID or driver's license. Don't trust your pockets, keep them zipped or buttoned up.

CAMERA

Don't walk around thinking the strap will guarantee your camera's safety.

BERMUDAS SHORTS AND FLOOD PANTS

You can wear bermuda shorts, but wear the styles the Brazilian boys wear, not what's in style back home. Flood pants never caught on in Rio, so forget it.

SANDALS

Wear tennis shoes or flip-flops instead. And, Lord, no black socks!

Fashion Crimes in Rio

BLACK SOCKS WITH BERMUDAS AND SANDALS



You are not in France.

SAFARI HAT

Come on! Brazil has already been discovered! 512 years ago!

BACKPACK AT THE BEACH

What the heck have you got in there that is so important? Black socks? Go to the beach with your beach clothes and that's it. It's the beach experience, not an expedition.

LARGE WATERBOTTLE

There are juice stands and bars on every corner...do you really prefer your warm water over a freshly blended iced mango juice?

BEAN NECKLACES ON MEN

That's so 90s... and not yet retro. Wait 7 years.

BRAZILIAN FLAG CANGA (SARONG)

Yup, muggers love it when you wear those, cause they can rob you, then indirectly sell the sarong back to you, how's that for irony?

THE LATEST ITALIAN FASHION



It hasn't caught on yet in Brazil, so it will just make you look scandalous.

CROCS

Unless you are under 8 years old, you'll just look silly. (Personal opinion)

PANTS WITHOUT BUTT-CRACK



Just not sexy...

FLIP-FLOPS AT NIGHT

Rio is not Club Med... put on shoes like everyone else, specially if you are going to restaurants or clubs.

TOWELS AT THE BEACH

The sun will dry you faster than the towel, so why bother?

MOTEL FLIP-FLOPS IN PUBLIC



The best way to look clueless. Leave them at the motel.

BRAZILIAN SOCCER TEAM SHIRT

Only during World Cup games.

ARGENTINIAN SOCCER TEAM SHIRT

Threat to your existence.

GETTING AROUND



Getting around Rio is easy: just get in a cab! 1 out of every 3 cars is a taxi (or so it seems). What's more: it's cheap. You can go from downtown to Ipanema for about R\$30 (US\$17). From Ipanema to Barra for about the same. The meters have 2 rates (*bandeirinhas*): "1" for daytime (6am to 9pm) and "2" for nighttime, weekends, holidays and the month of December. The "2" bandeira charges 20% more than the "1", so check. Just remember to ask the taxi driver if he knows how to get to where you want to go before you step in "*voce sabe chegar no*" "pronounced "vo-say sa-bee shay-gar no [insert place here]...". If he doesn't know, hand him your hotel card or take the next cab.

CAR RENTALS

Driving a rented car has become easier with the advent of the GPS. It does become helpful if you are planning on visiting the Off-Zona Sul attractions (see page 54), or if you plan on visiting Buzios, Petropolis or Paraty (cars are not allowed on *Illa Grande*) (see page 170).

SUBWAY

Check the Rio Big Map attached to the back of this book.



FRESCÃO

A safe and comfortable option if you are going to or from the downtown area is to take the "*Frescão*", an air conditioned passenger bus that serves the business commuters.



They go for R\$7 and run more frequently during rush hours.

CHAUFFEUR SERVICE

The classy option is always a chauffeur service, available outside most 5 star hotels. Although their rates start at R\$80 an hour, some chauffeur services are also accredited

tour guides, making them an excellent alternative to guided group tours.

Marcelo Esteves
9984-7654 or marafes@terra.com.br

VANS

Another option, if you master a little Portuguese or even some Spanish, is to ride the vans on the beach routes. For R\$6, you can go from Ipanema to Barra. Just signal a van that has the name of the neighborhood you



are heading to, shuffle your way in and tell the driver when he should let you out. Of course, if you are in a group of 4, you are better off taking a cab.

BUSES

The other, less recommended, transportation method are the public buses. Although a lot cheaper, these take longer (up to 55 minutes from downtown to Ipanema, where a cab would take 20 minutes).

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH?

EVERYTHING BEING SO GODDAMN PRICEY?

The dollar and euro are weak and the Brazilian Real is strong. Most of the world's wealthy are parking their money in Brazil, expecting the high interest rate local banks offer, while being somewhat unaware of the real rate of inflation. So, large influx multiplied by the difference in currency strength and you get a standard chesseburger costing US\$20, just about everywhere. What's worse is that apartment prices have skyrocketed to Manhattan prices, to a point where US\$500k won't buy you anything decent in Zona Sul and US\$2500 won't rent you a 3 bedroom apt in Ipanema.

BEACH VENDORS?

Just like the street vendors, the beach vendors tend to offer more practical stuff like snacks, ice cream, beer or sunglasses. Forget the hammock guy.



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FLANELINHAS?

These are guys that watch your car for a few R\$. You pay them R\$2 and they don't kick your rear view mirror off; fair and square. Each one owns a block and is responsible for whatever happens to your car. Since that is where they will permanently work for a few years, should something go missing, you can find them the next day and open a can of whoop-ass.

RUNNING STOPLIGHTS AT AFTER MIDNIGHT?

For safety reasons, most people slow down at red lights, check for traffic, then speed up again, as stopping at a red light in the dark can be dangerous, due to car robbery.

STREET VENDORS EVERYWHERE?

Selling mostly stuff made in China, street vendors account for about 1/3 of Brazil's work force. This type of business is illegal but frequently overlooked, as most escape the regulating street cops.



DOG TV?

These are rotisserie chicken ovens, referred to as television for dogs. For around R\$18 you can get diced chicken to go.

POOR PEOPLE IN RICH AREAS?

They come to nicer neighborhoods to beg from the rich (makes sense), but donation is not recommended unless they have an obvious condition. Many of them are in a condition to work but choose to beg. Don't give them anything, as this doesn't help anybody. If you want to help, check page 76 on how to give back.



RECKLESS DRIVING?

Since most Brazilians bought their license, or forgot most of the rules and regulations, everyone drives like its Super Nintendo.

LACK OF TRIBES?

Where are the punks? The nerds? The hippies? The heroin addicts? The emos? The rastas? Rio doesn't have visible factions of any of the above. It is mostly preppies, jiu-jitsu fighters (pit bulls), artsy-fartsy (neo-hippies) and normal people. You can find more tribes in São Paulo.

SHANTY TOWNS ON THE HILLS EVERYWHERE?



Why do the poor have the views, while the rich are locked down to the flat areas? A law from when Brazil was still a colony is still in use, prohibits anyone from building on the hillsides, allowing Cariocas to have a green view from wherever they live. In the last 40 years, the hills have been overtaken by the poor however, and the government has had little luck in stopping them.

THOSE MINI "WASHINGTON MEMORIAL MONUMENTS" IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SIDE WALK.



Those are placed by the city to prevent pig-parkers from parking on the sidewalk.

EXCESSIVE WAITERS?

Given that the minimum wage is R\$670 (US\$320 per month), most businesses can afford a large staff to improve service. Unfortunately, most of this staff is under-trained, which lowers the quality.

HOT WOMEN BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD?

These tall, hot prostitutes are state-of-the-art transvestites or transsexuals. Don't fall in love.

YOUNG PEOPLE HANGING OUT IN GAS STATIONS?

Gas stations have become a gathering place for different groups to hang around, blast music and sip beer, probably because they are one of the few convenience stores open late at night.

THE LACK OF LUXURY CARS?

Brazilians get hit with 120% tariff on imported cars, so a BMW325e goes for about US\$80K.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH CONSUMING BEER ANYWHERE?

I know, isn't it great?



Relax: Ipanema

The first thing anyone arriving in Rio should do is sit on Ipanema beach for at least a few hours. But of course, you can't just "go" to the beach - there is a ritual to follow. *Estimated Total Time (T): 8h Estimated Total Cost (C): R\$ 130 Best on: Sunny Weekday*



1 BEACH GEAR

First, buy yourself some fashion conscious swimming gear, as Brazilian beach fashion is different from other countries: swimming trunks are wide on the side and bikinis are medium-small triangles with horizontal straps.

2 BREAKFAST

Go for a juice and "pastel" (see page 161) at any of the juice bars on Visconde de Pirajá street.



Rio For Partiers

3 IPANEMA BEACH

You can now go to the beach. If you want the hip young spot, look for "Celebridade" tent by the big tall coconut tree between Joana Angelica Street and Maria Quiteria. If you want to eat good food and drink world-



Mate tea w/ lemonade: A must

rocking caipirinhas, opt for Uruguai's tent just to the left of the Posto 9 life-guard post. Tell the beach tent vendor you are a **Rio For Partiers** reader and you would like special treatment. He will find a chair for you upon request (R\$4). Plunk down and let the view sink in.



Ipanema girls

Don't order a beer just yet. Butt-watch instead.

You are in one of the world's most blessed cities and you are on vacation. Now you can order a beer. Ask for a beer holder (*isopor*) as the heat can warm up your beer before you get half way through it.



You can try most of the stuff the beach vendors have to offer, with the exception of the shrimp, which tends to go bad under the sun.



If you want to try something different, go to the "Uruguai" beach tent. He makes probably the best chicken



sandwiches in Rio, using his own "chimi-churi" sauce. Don't add the peppers though.



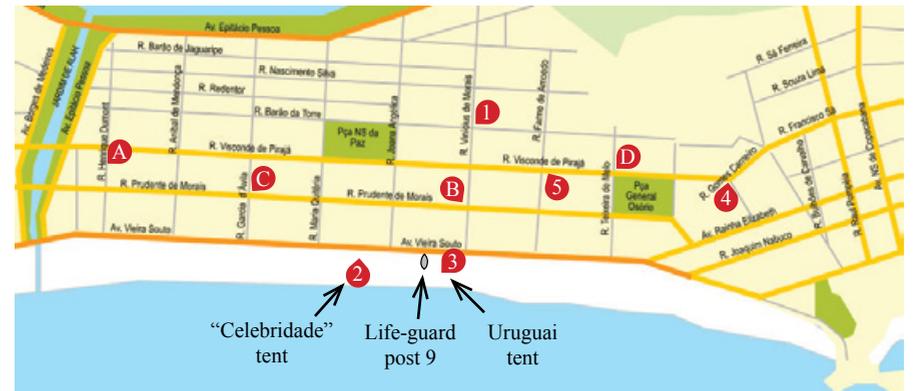
4 After the beach, wash off the sand at the lifeguard station and head over to **A** Benkei (sushi), **B** Garota de Ipanema (steak and fries), **C** Delírio Tropical (salads) or **D** Big Nectar (sandwiches) for a late lunch.

5 EMAIL

Walk across to Visconde and check your email at the closest internet cafe. Be sure to visit the updates section of our site: www.rioforpartiers.com/updates.html

WINDOW SHOP VISCONDE

Check out the shops along Visconde de Pirajá, walking counter-traffic till sundown. Cut through to the beach and hopefully catch the sunset in Ipanema, drink in hand. Head back to the hotel for a late siesta.



Relax: Joatinga & Barra Beaches

Joatinga is one of Rio's most charming yet hidden, beaches. It is only visited by locals during weekends, or weekdays in January, when surfers are on school vacation.

Estimated Total Time (T): 7h Estimated Total Cost (C): R\$ 120 Best on: Sunny Weekend

1 BREAKFAST

A *suco de mamão* (papaya juice) with a *kibe* (Arabic beef snack) or *misto quente* (toasted ham & cheese sandwich) at your closest juice bar.



2 JOATINGA

Hop into a cab and ask for Joatinga. Although the cab fare may be expensive (Ipanema to Joatinga=R\$29), it will make sense once you check out the view from up above.



Walk down the precarious path to the beach. There are one or two beach tents to offer you chairs and drinks. They charge more than others because of the remote location. Shadows are

cast early, due to the stone walls around Joatinga, so once that happens (usually around 3pm), get back up and call a taxi from the nearest phone booth, or ask a Brazilian with a cellular phone to dial 2434-0553 and call a cab juice bar.

3 PEPE BEACH



Take the cab to Praia do Pepe in Barra. Once there, sit on the sand and for the next few hours check out the hard-bodied people around you.

WILD BEACHES



If you also want to visit other famous, distant blue water beaches, like Grumari, Prainha and Guaratiba, we suggest you get a guided tour. Jungle Me offers a hike to deserted beaches, and saves you money on taxis.

Jungle Me
 Contact: Thiago tel: 4105-7533
 booking@jungleme.com.br
 www.jungleme.com.br
 Price: R\$180pp for 9 hour tour (4 hours hiking)



Relax: Soccer Game

Wimbledon to tennis, Madison Square Garden to basketball, Maracanã to soccer. An extremely exciting experience. Estimated Total Time (T): 4h Estimated Total Cost (C): R\$ 60 Best on: Sundays



Maracanã, formerly the world's largest stadium, is officially capable of holding 120,000 people, yet it has seen over 150,000 at some popular soccer finals.



SOCCER GAME

As soon as you get to Rio, ask around to see if there is a game going on and if it will be good: meaning big teams or championship finals. This will be an experience like you've

never had.

BREAKFAST

First you will need a strong breakfast to line your stomach. It shouldn't be beer, as you'll be pounding them in the next 30 minutes.

TAILGATING

After the good boys from Brazil Expedition pick you up from your hotel, you'll be taken to outside the stadium where you should get yourself a T-shirt of the team you will be rooting for (Flamengo, Botafogo, Fluminense and Vasco are the better ones from Rio). Try the food from the vendors, even the *filet-meow*. (meat kebab possibly made from street cats...) The air is charged, as enthusiasm and hope are conjured on both sides.

MARACANÃ

Once inside, you'll experience Rio at its most religious: 100K+

people independently stopping to wholeheartedly pray for their teams. Moments after "Amen", you'll be playing "Simon Says" for the next two hours: a little guy acting like a maestro sitting all the way down there will be showing 10,000 fans what to do, sing and shout. This is called an "organized fanclub" since that faction of fans all have their chants, stadium-sized flags and sneaked-in fireworks. The most common chants involve the "judge's ass" or "mother". Once a goal is scored everyone has an orgasm and the chants get re-energized. If you see the beer vendor, get 2 at once as they are scarce. After the game, stick together to go home.



Note: Maracanã is undergoing remodelling, and won't be ready before 2014. All games are being played in other stadiums around Rio.

To go with experienced guides and a safe, large group of young travelers (great mingling), contact:

Brazil Expedition
 Contact: Eduardo
 tel: 9998-2907 info@brazilexpedition.com
 www.brazilexpedition.com



Price: R\$80 = Soccer game with tickets & transfer. Every Sunday, occasionally on Wednesdays.

Hang Gliding & Paragliding

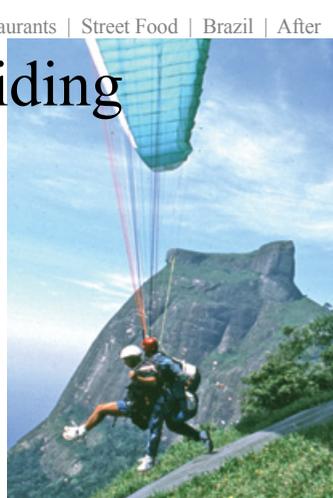
Hang-gliding and paragliding are by far our highest recommendations, as Rio is one of the few tropical cities in the world where you can fly over the city and land on a beach.

A tandem flight is an instructional flight, where you can get a taste for the sport without needing any previous experience. On this course, each person gets a personal trainer, grade A equipment and service within an hour.

Regardless of the weather, you should call as soon as you arrive in Rio to ask to be on standby and request for more

information about the climate conditions. There are various factors that determine whether you can fly and this analysis is included in the service. Don't book your your flight for the last day of your trip in Rio, if weather conditions don't allow, you may end up losing out on the chance to fly over the Marvelous City.

To learn more about the sport, contact RioCharm Tours, who work solely with professional instructors and have safety in mind first and foremost, a huge differential.



RioCharm Tours

Contact: Max
tel: 8894-9857
info@riocharm.com.br
www.riocharm.com.br



Price: Tandem Hang or Paraglide lesson = R\$320 with free transfers for RFP readers.

Rock Climbing



Rio is the largest urban rock climbing center in Latin America.

There are many mountains and hills to climb, specially the two most famous postcards of Rio: Sugar Loaf and Corcovado mountain.

Rock climbing tours are available to everyone moderately fit, even if you've never climbed before.

The safety harnesses, ropes and helmets help guarantee you go back home in one piece. What's more, imagine how cool it would be to make a poster

from a picture of you climbing up to the Christ the Redeemer Statue, with the rest of Rio in the background!

Crux Ecoaventura

Contact: Marcelo
Tel: 3322-8765 or 9392-9203
rio@cruxecoaventura.com.br
more tours: www.cruxecoaventura.com.br



From R\$ 330 pp for a day climbing tour on Sugar Loaf.
From R\$ 390 pp for a day climbing tour on Corcovado mountain.



Ocean Kayaking



Ocean kayaking is one of the best ways to explore Rio's beautiful coast and enjoy unique views of the city and its forested mountains.

You'll start your trip at Praia Vermelha, where Sugar Loaf Mountain is located and paddle for one hour to the Cotunduba Island, a few miles off-shore. There you'll stop for snacks, swimming and snorkeling, appreciating the beauty of Rio from a totally different viewpoint. Back at the beach you can shower and change at the Kayak Base. No previous experience is required. Snorkeling equipment, hotel pick-up and drop-off are all included.

Crux Ecoaventura

Contact: Marcelo
Tel: 3322-8765 or 9392-9203
rio@cruxecoaventura.com.br

more tours: www.cruxecoaventura.com.br

**SPECIAL DEAL
FOR OUR READERS
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Price: R\$230pp, including instructors, equipment, insurance waiver and snacks.



Tijuca Peaks and Waterfall Hiking

TIJUCA PEAK

This dramatic mountain is a well-known Rio landmark and also an under-explored tourist attraction. Why not try the unique experience of reaching the summit on your own two feet?

Discover the nature and history of the park, its amazing scenery, experience nature and adventure as you hike through peaks and waterfalls with landscapes not featured in classic tours. Understand the history of Brazil and learn all about the coffee farms that used to exist there, in its golden years before

reforestation started in XIX century.

The Jungle Me hike is designed for us, the regular people, who workout when guilt mounts up, so the hike is relatively light, picturesque, educational and entertaining. The guide knows how to make a walk in the woods very interesting, going over the history of Brazil and how that pertains to this urban forest (one of the largest in the world). He will drive you up halfway up the Tijuca mountain, to where the hike will start, then you'll hike for 2 hours till you get to the peak. You'll stop

for lunch, which you brought in your backpack, then head to the waterfall down below, for a revitalizing shower (bring swimming gear) before heading back home.

Jungle Me

Contact: Thiago
tel: 4105-7533
booking@jungleme.com.br
www.jungleme.com.br

**SPECIAL DEAL
FOR OUR READERS
CHECK FRONT FLAP**

Price: Tijuca Forest (full-day) at Tijuca Peaks and Waterfalls: R\$180 pp (tour duration:9h; hike:5h)

Tijuca Forest (half-day) at Pedra Bonita: R\$130pp (tour duration:4h; hike:1,5h)

What to take and wear: water, food/ snacks, backpack, walking shoes, swimwear, towel



Cultural: Downtown

Although Rio has a lot of history and cultural attractions, we have narrowed down our recommendations to include only the essentials, doable in a 2 day tour of the center. **Est.Total Time (T): 5h per day** **Estimated Total Cost (C): starts at R\$ 100** **Best on: Cloudy/Rainy Day**

As far as museums, churches and historic areas go, our recommendations are to spend a day or two visiting as many of the following as quickly as possible (1 hour visits):

Day 1

1 MUSEU DE ARTE MODERNA

MODERNA



The Modern Art Museum is in itself a work of modern art by one of Brazil's great architects Eduardo Affonso Reidy, also responsible for the Flamengo park project (together with Burlle Marx) and the *Catedral* (Cathedral).

2 MOSTEIRO DE SÃO BENTO

BENTO



Rio For Partiers

The Monastery of Saint Benedict boasts one of the most elaborate baroque style churches in Latin America, with tons of gold work.

LUNCH

Esch Cafe: Rua do Rosario 107

Delirio Tropical: Rua Assembleia 36

3 CENTRO CULTURAL BANCO DO BRASIL

BANCO DO BRASIL



The Bank of Brazil Cultural Center hosts different technological, art and cinema events throughout the year.

4 PAÇO IMPERIAL

The Imperial Palace, now transformed into an art museum.



Day 2

5 ESCADARIA SELARÓN



The 80 meter Selaron stairs are composed of tiles from all over the world and a true work of art. Over the past 20 years the Chilean-born creator Selaron painted different cartoons on ceramic tiles, the most famous being the pregnant favela women (see page 72).

6 CATEDRAL



The City Cathedral is another one of Reidy's works. Although unattractive from the outside, inside it has very powerful lighting and acoustics.

7 BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL



One of the largest libraries in the world, the National Library stores over 4 million works.

8 TEATRO MUNICIPAL



Inspired by the Paris Opera, with the outside walls inscribed with the names of some of Brazil's most famous artists, the eclectic style Municipal Theatre has recently been restored to its former beauty and shit.

GUIDED TOURS

You can't really "wing" a cultural tour anywhere, and Rio is no different. You visit and see it all, but where's the context, background, significance and anecdotes? We recommend:

Lisa Rio Tours

Tel: 2237-4615 or 21-9894-6867

www.lisariotours.com

lisa_tours@hotmail.com

skype: [lisa.rio.tours](https://www.skype.com/pt/contacts/lisa.rio.tours)

Price: R\$160 pp for 5 hour tour of Centro and Santa Teresa

or R\$110 pp for 4 hour tour of Centro



Cultural: Tour of a Favela

One of the most unforgettable tours you will ever take! The tour through a Rio de Janeiro *favela* shows how many lower class Cariocas happily live in minimal, yet organized conditions. A must for everyone.

Touring a Favela is obligatory if you want a better understanding of Brazilian society. The tour is very safe and not voyeuristic at all. There are different operators proposing different types of tours in favelas and they are not all the same: some offer a closer and deeper analysis of the social aspects involved.

Most tours introduce you to Rocinha, the biggest favela in Brazil, next to the affluent area of São Conrado. Most are three-hour tours, partly walking and partly driving through these

two communities. You'll get the chance to visit the commercial area and the handicraft center in Rocinha and the local school in Vila Canoas, as well as taking in some impressive views over the city.

The tour changes the reputation of favelas, all too often related to violence and poverty. Don't worry, you are very welcome there and your presence is important to help them finance local schools. If you want a better understanding of Brazil, don't leave Rio missing this unique experience.

As a great primer, rent "City of God" (Cidade de Deus), and Elite Squad (Tropa de Elite) and the sequel, chilling movies around the control by the drug lords in the favelas in the past. But don't be misled as it has changed drastically: Most favelas have now been pacified by the mayor's new plan to re-integrate them.

Favela Tour
 Contact: Marcelo
 Tel: 3322-2727 info@favelatour.com.br
www.favelatour.com.br
 Price: Starts at R\$80pp for 3 hour tour.



Rio For Partiers

Cultural: Big Dude Tour

This 5 hour tour is a fantastic opportunity to see many sides of Rio de Janeiro.

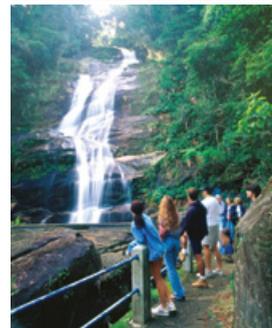
Estimated Total Time (T): 5h Estimated Total Cost (C): R\$ 95 Best on: sunny or partially cloudy weekdays

Brazil expedition offers this tour that summarizes a lot of the good parts of Rio: First stop:

SÃO CONRADO BEACH

The hang-gliding landing area on Sao Conrado beach where the hang gliders land after they take off from Pedra Bonita.

TIJUCA NATIONAL PARK



From there, the mini-bus will take you to the Tijuca National Park for a glimpse of this famous Atlantic rainforest.

CHRIST STATUE

From the forest you will take the bus and arrive at the Christ The Redeemer Statue. The biggest wow factor of the day.

SELARON STAIRS

Lastly a visit to the Selaron stairs (see page 79) where Snoop



Dogg shot his famous video "Beautiful". To finish your day, why not opt to be dropped off at Sugarloaf mountain (ticket not included) in time for sunset.

BrazilExpedition

Contact: Eduardo
 Tel: 9998-2907
rio@brazilexpedition.com
 more tours: www.brazilexpedition.com

Price: from R\$95. Monday to Saturday.
 Includes hotel pick-up and entrance to Christ Statue.



What to do in Rio when it's Raining



FRUIT TASTING SESSIONS

South America is the origin of the biggest variety of fruits in the world. Coconut, passion fruit, avocado, pineapple, cocoa, açai, custard apple, star fruit, guava, cashew to name but a few... There are literally hundreds of them and dozens are part of everyday Brazilian life, specially in or near the Amazon or the Cerrado.

This fruit tasting session introduces you to over a dozen of these exotic fruits. You can cut open, smell, taste and drink them, whether as fruit, juice, ice cream or jam. The presenter will talk about their nutritional value, culinary uses and economic importance.

Each session lasts 1 hour and the cost of R\$60 per person includes everything you'll be tasting.

Book in advance.

Fruit Brazil

Contact: Cris Tel: 8894-9857
www.fruitbrazil.com info@fruitbrazil.com

SPECIAL DEAL
FOR OUR READERS
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be enough for a lifetime of showing off.

Your options of dance lessons are: *Samba (Samba de Pe)*, Ballroom samba, *Zouk* (a new, more sensual Lambada) and *Forro*.

Centro Cultural Casa Rosa

contact: Rodrigo
 8877-8804 or 2557-2562
 Rua Alice 550, Laranjeiras
R\$50 per person, minimum 2.



DANCE LESSONS

You can either sit around waiting for the sun to come out, or you can go learn a few dance moves! Really! Just call and schedule private lessons (individual or group). Dance lessons last 2 hours and should

1-Day Brazilian Cooking Lessons

Like to cook? Want to play around and learn some Brazilian recipes to show off to your friends back home? Take one of these 4 hour cooking classes with Cook in Rio. Learn it all and of course, eat it all.

Simone, the instructor, focuses not only on the techniques and ingredients, but on introducing Brazilian culture through food.

A) FEIJOADA MENU:

Pork meat and black bean stew, rice, collard greens, oranges, farofa, rice), accompanied by caipirinha, pork rinds and *brigadeiro* for dessert.

B) MOQUECA MENU:

Batida de coco drink, fried cassava, shrimp moqueca with rice and farofa, followed by coconut *manjar* for dessert.

These lessons only include ingredients that can be readily found in the US or EU countries.

Cook in Rio

Contact: Simone
 tel: 8761-3653
info@cookinrio.com www.cookinrio.com

Price: R\$150 per person, includes drinks and food. Schedule ahead.

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Street-Food Tour of Rio's Centro



Forget hoity-toity French dishes. This tour is for those who are curious to eat what the average Brazilian eats when on the go. Rio's centro hasn't yet been invaded by international franchises, making it an open-air food tasting mecca of traditional corner bars and *lanchonetes* (snack-bars).

What you'll taste on the food tour:

- Flip-flop sandwich (*sandwich de chinelo*)
- Beef Esfiha (*Esfiha de carne*)
- Brazilian Cheese Bread (*Pao de queijo*)
- Veggie omelette sandwich (*Fritada de legumes*)

- Breaded fried sardines (*Sardinha frita*)
- 20 layer ham sandwich
- Steak sandwich
- Corn-meal beef pasty (*pastel de angu*)



- Corn-meal chowder (*angu de carne*)
- Oversized shrimp in a blanket (*camarao empanado*)
- Everything hot-dog (*cachorro quente de padaria*)
- Beef Kibe
- Shrimp Risoles
- Jilo, a bitter vegetable,

marinated and sliced

- Side-walk steak skewer (*fillet miau*)
- Coconut candy (*alfinim*)
- *Doce de Leite* Churros
- Arabic nut nest (*ninho de nozes*)

Rio Street-Food Tours

Weekdays, noon to 3pm and 3pm to 6pm
Regular price: R\$100 pp for 3 hour tour
min 2 participants (price includes foods but not drinks)
tel: 8894-9857

www.riostreetfood.com

SPECIAL DEAL
FOR OUR READERS
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Photo hunting tour of Rio



Get ready to take some unique photos of Rio's visually rich landscape and people. The award-winning instructor on this tour will guide and advise you through various hidden and eye-catching areas of the city, so you end up with million-dollar shots. The tour starts in the hectic historic center, heading to charming Santa Teresa and ending with cinematographic views of Rio from above.

Rio Photo Tour

Everyday, 3pm to 7pm tel: 8894-9857
Price: R\$100 pp for 4 hour tour, min 2 participants (not including equipment or transportation). www.riophototour.com

SPECIAL DEAL
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GIFT IDEAS

BIO-JEWELRY FROM MARIA OITICICA

Bio-jewelry? That's right: jewelry made, not from slave gold and blood stones, but exotic and rare seeds and plants from deep in the Amazon. The design is vibrant and the philosophy refreshing.

For 20 years, Amazonia-native designer, Maria Oiticica, has been designing jewelry and accessories that attract the attention of the entire ball, true works of art. Get it while it's still incredibly affordable!

Maria Oiticica flagship store

Shopping Leblon, 1st floor
www.marioiticica.com.br

Maria Oiticica studio

Rua Visconde de Carandai 19, Jardim Botânico
tel: 2275-4197

SPECIAL DEAL FOR OUR READERS CHECK FRONT FLAP



Pampering Options

Weather cloudy or rainy? Use and abuse the various beauty services available in Rio.

NIRVANA DAY SPA



What's the best way to start your vacation? That's right: massages at a stylish day spa. And since you are here, why not go all out?

After popular request the exclusive Nirvana Spa is now open to non-members, so you can get a single massage or treatment, or go for the full or half-day options. Since it is Brazil's most complete urban spa, services can be done concurrently with others in your group, so no waiting. Your best bet is to schedule something before 4pm, as most cariocas have their appointments scheduled from 5pm onwards.

FULL DAY SPA PACKAGE:

- Yoga
- Sauna
- Lunch
- Stimulating Body Peel
- Aroma-therapy bath with essential oils
- Ayurvedic massage
- Oriental Cranial massage
- Foot reflexology
- Reiki

MASSAGES



At Nirvana Spa you can choose from a huge variety of massages, including:

- Jet lag massage
- Relaxation massage
- Vodder-style lymphatic drainage
- Body-modeling massage
- Quick massage
- Foot reflexology
- Shiatsu
- Ayurvedic massage
- Sport Tonic massage
- Thai massage
- Spiritual massage

TREATMENTS



They also specialize in the following treatments:

- Clay body-therapy
- Hot stones treatment
- Bamboo therapy
- Body peel
- Aromatherapy bath
- Facials
- Auriculotherapy (ear acupuncture)

Half-day packages are also available. Check their website for details of their dozens of options.



SPECIAL DEAL FOR OUR READERS CHECK FRONT FLAP

Nirvana Spa
Praca Santos Dumont 31 (inside the Jockey Club), Gávea
tel: 2187-0100
nirvana@enirvana.com.br
www.enirvana.com.br
Prices start at roughly R\$100 for 1 hour, depending on the service.

SAMBA



The most famous Brazilian music, mostly percussion and *ukelete* guitars and very hard to stay still to. Ask someone to teach you the dance moves, which might look hard, but are even harder when you try them! Can be heard at any of the samba club rehearsals. Goes great with beer or more hyper stuff.

CDS AND BANDS TO LOOK FOR:

Sambas De Enredo Carnaval De 2007

Cartola
Jamelão

Casa De Samba (Coletânea)

WHERE TO HEAR IT LIVE:

Salgueiro Tue and Sat (page 129)

Mangueira Wed and Sat

Lapa (various spots)

LESSONS

For samba drumming lessons, contact:

Centro Cultural Casa Rosa
contact: Rodrigo
8877-8804 or 2557-2562
Rua Alice 550, Laranjeiras



PAGODE

An improvised samba, made by beating anything that can be found at a bar table: spoon to a bottle as the cymbal, a chair as the drum, matchbox as the shaker etc. Dirty lyrics. Usually women start to dance along to it. Great for afternoons and barbecues.

CDS AND BANDS TO LOOK FOR:

Jorge Aragão

Zeca Pagodinho

Fundo De Quintal

Beth Carvalho

WHERE TO HEAR IT LIVE:

Beco do Rato (page 118)

Bip Bip (page 117)

Rua do Mercado (page 122)



CHORINHO



A slower and more vocal version of samba, with fewer beats, making it more melancholic. It emerged in the 19th Century and it is still around. Not for daily consumption, as its pace can mellow out any excitement.

CDS AND BANDS TO LOOK FOR:

Pixinguinha

Jacob Do Bandolin

Joel Nascimento

WHERE TO HEAR IT LIVE:

Praia Vermelha on Mon, Wed, Fri

Centro Cultural Carioca (page 118)

Rio Scenarium (page 120)



BRAZILIAN FUNK

Nothing like American funk, Brazilian Funk is the biggest musical revolution that Brazil has seen in the last 35 years. All the others get dwarfed by the advancements in it's empowering ability. Up until this you would have to have a voice, a band, a producer, a label, a marketing plan etc, etc to become famous and heard. Now the marginally oppressed, poor and vocally limited all have a chance to make a social commentary on any topic, exposing their new reality. Isn't that what art is about? Showing us what we somehow don't see? So mix simple electric piano loops with dirty lyrics and what

do you get? Wild fire. Girls love dancing to it, guys love singing the naughty lyrics and parents hate it. In other words, just the way teenage music should be.

One of the most famous songs is "The p***y is mine and I give it to who I want" which became a war-cry for new-age feminists.

CDS AND BANDS TO LOOK FOR:

Mr Catra

Dj Marlboro

Gaiola Das Popozudas

WHERE TO HEAR IT LIVE:

Via Show, Lapa, Favelas



YEARLY EVENTS

JANUARY



VACATION MONTH

January is vacation month for schools and government offices, so everyone is partying it up day and night. Most of the upper class won't be in Rio this month, but can be found in Buzios, Ilha Grande and Paraty, as well as other parts of Brazil. The samba club rehearsals are heating up, so attend as many as you can.

20TH OF JANUARY

Saint Sebastian Day: Only in Rio

CARNIVAL SCHEDULE

To get the most up-to-date info on the carnival parties, visit our site at www.rioforpartiers.com/samba.html

FEBRUARY



CARNIVAL

Carnival is also the largest party of the year here: 190 million people partying for a week. If you are here during carnival, be sure to get tickets for the Samba school parade held at the Sambodromo, or wait till the Saturday after carnival and watch the top 5 winning schools parade for the second time (*Desfile das Campeãs*). See page 106 for more info.

MARCH



CELL-PHONE COMPANIES' MUSIC FESTIVALS

Different international brands have been sponsoring music events bringing huge international bands to perform.

BRAZILWIDE

Carnaporto- off-season 6 day music fest/street party in Porto Seguro – BA

APRIL



PASCOA-EASTER

Easter is a big event in Brazil, as this is a 90% catholic country. A national holiday occurs on Good Friday, so people tend to take the whole week off. Everyone goes somewhere, so if you are in Rio, it is a fun time to visit Buzios, Paraty or Ilha Grande.

21ST OF APRIL

Tiradentes Day (Independence hero)

23RD OF APRIL

Saint George's Day (Only in Rio)

SKOL BEATS

A music festival sponsored by Skol, the beer brand. Lots of national and international DJs playing dance music.

MAY



1º DE MAIO- LABOR DAY

May 1st is Brazil's Labor Day, when no one works. Some larger parties and concerts may be sponsored by clubs or rave-promoting companies.

PETRÔ-FANTASY

Just like Terefantasy: a costume party 1 hour outside Rio. Mostly frequented by Rio's college students. Beautiful venue, music and shows.

JUNE



Festa Junina

Festa Junina is a hick fest. Everyone dresses like hill-billies and goes square dancing, Brazilian style of course. Usually these events are held between large groups of friends (100 or more), but some are run by party promotion companies. Worth a visit. Ask your concierge for the public ones sprinkled throughout the city.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Shifting in June.

BRAZILWIDE

Carnabelô

Belo Horizonte-Minas Gerais

Bumba-meu-boi

Parintins- Amazon

LEAVE RIO DURING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

When planning your trip, watch out for national holidays, checking to see if they land close to a weekend. If so, be sure to make reservations to check out Buzios, Paraty, Ilha Grande or Petropolis, as Rio's elite flock to these places, making it much more fun than during off-season.

TO GET MORE INFO ON THE ABOVE:

To find out when the next one is on, check for flyers outside clubs like Six or Casa da Matriz. Also, check the "A2" adult store in Ipanema, as they tend to carry most of the flyers for the weekly parties and events.

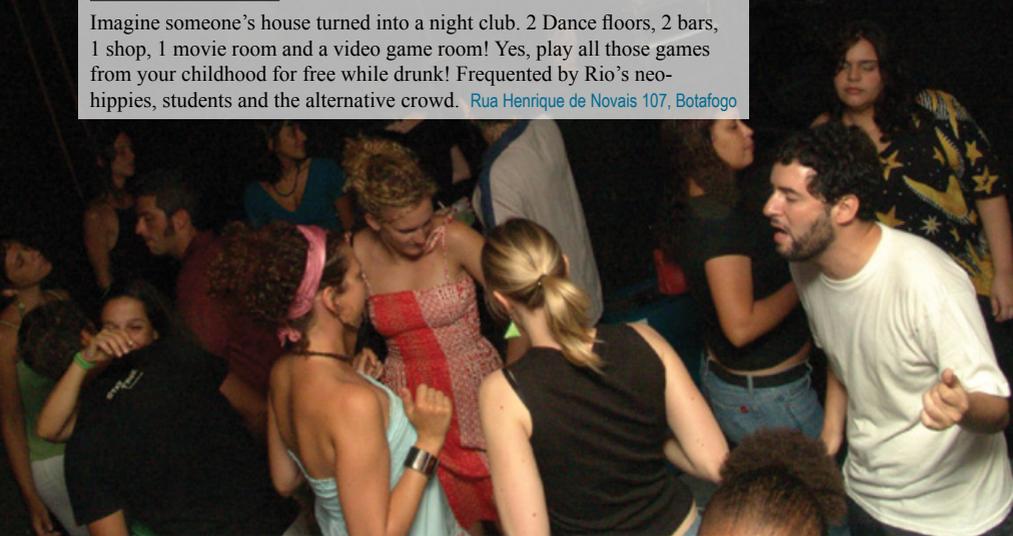
You should also get the Friday edition of O Globo newspaper with the "Rio Show" insert magazine or ask your concierge to find out what is going on as far as one-off events, shows and festivals.

Sunday- Clubbing

Also good on Tue-Sun
Approach index: 4
Get there at: 10pm
Ages 22 to 35
Dress casual

CASA DA MATRIZ

Imagine someone's house turned into a night club. 2 Dance floors, 2 bars, 1 shop, 1 movie room and a video game room! Yes, play all those games from your childhood for free while drunk! Frequented by Rio's neo-hippies, students and the alternative crowd. [Rua Henrique de Novais 107, Botafogo](#)



Sunday- Live Music

EVENTS

Also good on Fri & Sat
Approach index: 5
Get there at: 7pm
Ages 20 to 30
Dress casual

CASA ROSA- SAMBA DA ALICE

Hidden in Laranjeiras neighborhood, Casa Rosa, an ex-bordel, is the most fun place in this part of the city. It is a large house modified into a party club, with rooms, garden, pool tables and lots of places for you to be naughty. On Sundays, they have the samba and pagode circles, where different bands will perform while more down-to-earth visitors will crowd around and sing along. A very different and relaxed atmosphere. [Rua Alice 550, Laranjeiras](#)

SPECIAL DEAL FOR OUR READERS CHECK FRONT FLAP

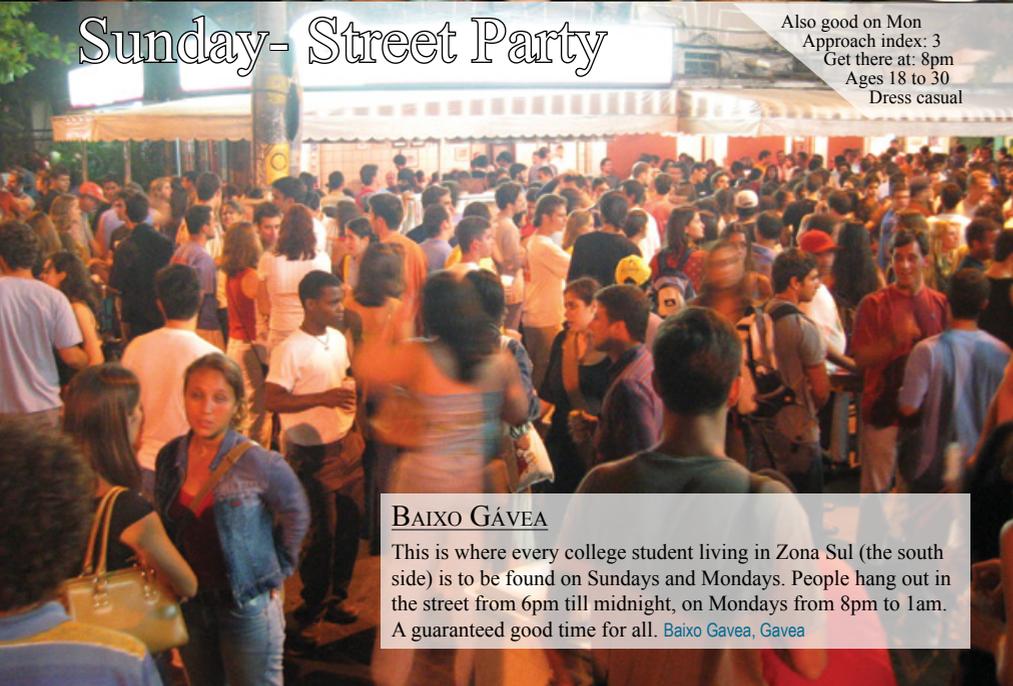


Sunday- Street Party

Also good on Mon
Approach index: 3
Get there at: 8pm
Ages 18 to 30
Dress casual

BAIXO GÁVEA

This is where every college student living in Zona Sul (the south side) is to be found on Sundays and Mondays. People hang out in the street from 6pm till midnight, on Mondays from 8pm to 1am. A guaranteed good time for all. [Baixo Gavea, Gavea](#)



Sunday- Chilling

Also good all week
Approach index: 2
Get there at: 9pm
Ages 25 to 60
Dress casual

COBAL HUMAITÁ

A huge open-air patio filled with tables for Rio's various tribes to go and gossip about their weekend exploits. Various restaurants to choose from. Well behaved. [Cobal do Humaita, Humaita](#)



Friday- Clubbing

EVENTS



Also good all week
Approach index: 5
Get there at: 10pm
Ages 25 to 40
Dress nice



LAPA 40 GRAUS

One of the best places in Lapa: 4 floors. The first floor has a botequim with live music and a pool hall, the second a lounge, the third another pool hall and the fourth a large dance floor and stage featuring Rio's top names in Samba and other sounds. Amazing! Lots of dancing. Come early and stay till the wee hours. Rua do Riachuelo 97, Lapa | www.lapa40graus.com.br

SPECIAL DEAL
FOR OUR READERS
CHECK FRONT FLAP



Friday- Street Party

EVENTS



Also good on Sat
Approach index: 3
Get there at: 9pm
Ages 25 to 65
Dress casual

LAPA

Lapa is great any day of the week, specially on Fridays and Saturdays: you have a choice of over 12 bars and areas to hang out at, most of them with live Brazilian music. A definite must. [Anywhere in the Lapa neighborhood](#)



RUA DO MERCADO

Happy hour central. A colonial part of downtown is the Rua do Mercado, which has pagode street parties every Friday evening. The area offers a dozen bars to hop around, with a square for the pagode get-together. [Rua do Mercado, Centro](#)

Also good all week
Approach index: 4
Get there at: 7pm
Ages 25 to 40
Dress casual



Friday- Live Music

Also good all week
Approach index: 2
Get there 8pm
Ages 30 to 75
Dress up



MIRANDA

A new and ritzy live music venue located on Lagoa, named in homage to Carmen Miranda. Ideal for those who don't want to put up with the hustle of Lapa, or distance to other music locations. Be sure to visit www.mirandabrasil.com.br as soon as you arrive to check their line-up, as it is likely to have a bigshot from Brazil's MPB, Bossanova, Rock or Samba. Great dishes and finger food, as well as oversized drinks. In "Espaço Lagoon" complex - Av. Borges de Medeiros, 1424. Lagoa. Tel: 2239-0305

SPECIAL DEAL FOR OUR READERS CHECK FRONT FLIP



Friday- Chilling

Also good all week
Approach index: 3
Get there at: 8pm
Ages 25 to 55
Dress nice



DEVASSA

Considered the best beer in Rio and possibly all of Brazil, Devassa is Rio's answer to premium micro-brew. Apart from the lager, red, pale and stout, they have an exceptional food menu. There are Devassas popping up everywhere, so ask for the nearest one. [Rua Prudente de Moraes 416, Ipanema](#)



Good on weekends
Approach index: 4
Get there at: 10pm
Ages 20 to 35
Dress casual



TEATRO ODISSEIA

A favorite music show hall in Lapa, with top Brazilian MPB and rock artists performing regularly. The place always packs, adding to the experience. Ages 20 to 38 | Approach index: 4 | Get there at: 9pm | Dress casual. [Rua Mem de Sa 66, Lapa](#) | Also good on Thu-Sat

Good all week
Approach index: 2
Get there at: 7pm
Ages 20 to 50
Dress casual



BOTEQUIM INFORMAL

A large chain of botequims with exceptional draught beer, portuguese cold *tapas*, Brazilian bar food and Rio's best *bolinho de carne seca* (jerked beef cakes). Lot's of fun on Sundays at 4pm, when there are soccer matches. [Rua Conde de Bernadotte 26 in Leblon](#)

GAY

RIO

 by Guy Halliday

Welcome to Rio, recently voted the most popular gay destination in the world! Apart from the stunning beaches and incredible landscapes, there's far more to catch the eye, starting with the Cariocas themselves - an exotic mix of sensual, passionate and mostly gay-friendly folk who love nothing more than a party.

Being Brazil's main tourist city, you won't just meet locals and foreigners - there's a constant stream of Brazilians on holiday from all over the country and being on holiday means that most are in an adventurous party mood.

GAY RIO BY DAY

The focal point is the gay beach in Ipanema, just in front of Rua Farme de Amoedo, perhaps the gayest street in Rio. Don't worry if you can't speak Portuguese, body-language is universal.

On weekends the beach in front of Copacabana Palace attracts a mature as well as a bear crowd.

There is more to Rio than just beaches, however. There are top attractions like Sugar Loaf Mountain, the Christ statue and the Botanical Gardens and if you're a culture vulture

then Rio, as former capital and current hot spot, offers lots of history, architecture and GLBT cultural events, like a film festival, theatre and many fascinating museums.



GAY NIGHT

If it's parties you're after, then you're in for a treat. Every night you can club and party, the only problem is choice. Occasional Circuit Parties such as B.I.T.C.H, R:Evolution, the Original Pool Party and Maxima are all spectacular (get the flyers on the beach) and events like Carnival, Pride and New Year's Eve all attract many dancing queens.



SUNDAY

If it's sunny, it's a beach day. After, where better than **Rio G Spa** to wash the sand out of those tricky places. Just across from the gay beach in Ipanema, this is by far the most popular Sunday post-praia meeting place. You just might bump into the very person you've been admiring all day at the beach. But don't linger for too long, as everyone else has gone for a drink at **To Nem Ai** on Farme. You can't miss it, it's where the gay crowd bursts out onto the street. You might like to dine later at **00 (Zero Zero)** in Gávea - the chiquest club with the hippest crowd. If you want something beefier, the go-gos at

Le Boy may be your thing.

MONDAY

A quieter evening in town and a chance to recover from the excesses of the weekend. Fancy a coffee and boy-watching? Head for **Cafeina** on Farme. For the girls, **La Girl** is open with a line-up of DJs. **Le Boy** also opens a smaller part of the club on Mondays.

TUESDAY

Having had a relatively chilled out Monday you are ready to party. One choice is to hang out around **Posto 6** bars (Copacabana) and then move on

to **Le Boy's** Strip Night. Here you can dance all night to the latest tunes and watch a show of Rio's best strippers.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Great days to hang out in Ipanema. Around midnight, leave Farme and walk one block away to Teixeira de Melo, to **Galeria**. Whether outside or inside, there's always a friendly crowd and tonight it's POParty with VJ LC Ambient. Alternatively, you could try **Dama de Ferro** for excellent house and alternative tunes. If you prefer Copacabana, try the **TV Bar** followed by **Fosfobox**.

Farme de Amoedo Beach



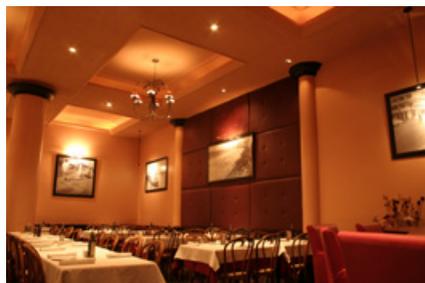
STEAKHOUSE

Churrascaria Palace

The legendary Churrascaria Palace was one of the bossa-nova artists' hang-outs in the 50's. Today it is considered the steakhouse in Rio with the best cost/benefit ratio. Their specialty is picanha, cupim (hump) and lamb ribs. Ask the maitre D' to serve you "tuti", the softest, most succulent part of the rib. Also ask for "picanha borboleta" and the Amazonian fish steaks. They also offer calamari, shrimp, sushi, oysters and salmon, as well as scores of side dishes, anti-pasti and salads. (R\$78 for all you care to eat)

Recent Awards and Prizes: ★ "Top 3 churrascarias in Rio" - Época Magazine 2012 ★ "Best cost x benefit churrascaria" 2012 - O Globo ★ Top 3 churrascarias (steakhouses) in TripAdvisor Rio de Janeiro

Rua Rodolfo Dantas 16, Copacabana | tel: 2541-5898 | www.churrascariapalace.com.br



Lamb ribs with mint jelly



Butterfly rumpsteak

AMAZONIAN

Espirito Santa

With Amazonian ingredients and world-class culinary techniques, you'll be wowed with what Natacha Fink has in store for you. Fish and vegetables are all fresh from the Amazon. Since everything is exotic, let the maitre D design your experience. (entrees vary between R\$35 and R\$70)

Recent awards and prizes:

★ Nominated for "Best Brazilian Cuisine" - VejaRio Magazine 2011 & 2012

★ Top 3 Brazilian Restaurants in Rio - Isto É Magazine 2011



Rua Almirante Alexandrino 264, Santa Teresa | www.espiritosanta.com.br | tel:2507-4840 Closed on Tuesdays



Pacu fish in Kale wrap with banana cins



Fried Steak & cassava cake

SEA FOOD

Sobrenatural

You have got to check out Santa Teresa during the day and at night. You just have to. And the highest recommendation we can think of for a decently priced, superb meal is Sobrenatural, which has some of the freshest fish in Rio. Go on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday, when they have live Samba and Chorinho music by renowned local artists. As for food: consider their beer battered shrimp as an appetizer, followed by fish or shrimp moqueca (from Bahia, a must) or coconut surubin fish with brazil-nut rice and plantains. Afterwards, bar hop the neighboring spots. (entrees from R\$40 to R\$80 pp)

Recent awards and prizes: ★ Nominated by "Revista Veja Comer e Beber" for 5 years (2008 - 2012)

Rua Almirante Alexandrino 432 Santa Teresa | Tel: 2224-1003 | Tue -Thu + Sun 6pm to 2am, Fri+Sat 6pm 5am

SPECIAL DEAL FOR OUR READERS CHECK FRONT FLAP



Shrimp Bobó



Rio For Partiers



Saffron rice with Prawns

MINEIRAN AND BAHIAN FOOD

Brasileirinho Copacabana

SPECIAL DEAL FOR OUR READERS CHECK FRONT FLAP

The two regions in Brazil that have their own, authentic and traditional cuisine are Minas Gerais and Bahia. The other regions have a limited number of recipes or are heavily influenced by foreign food, such as the German recipes in the south of Brazil. Brasileirinho in Copa is the deluxe version of the Brasileirinho in Ipanema, and their focus is on Bahian and Mineiran food. What to order: the moqueca, the *bobo de camarão* (cassava stew with prawns), *tutu a mineira* (the best bet here, refried black beans with pork chops and kale). The view, by itself, is worth the visit! (entrees from R\$30 to R\$60)

Av. Atlantica 3564, Copacabana | tel: 2267-3148 | www.cozinhatipica.com.br



Shrimp Bobó in Pumpkin



Pork chops with "tutu" beans

JAPANESE

Sushi Leblon

Japanese food is huge in Rio and Sushi Leblon has been a runaway success for 20 years. Unless you show up before 8pm, you'll have to wait in line however, and no, tables don't free up at midnight... the place boils till 2am! Their success stems from their innovations in sushi and Japanese dishes as well as from their hip Leblon address. Note: it is customary for Japanese restaurants in Brazil to over fill your sake box, as a sign of generosity. Be sure to try the strawberry caipisake, to get the night started.

Recent awards and prizes: ★ Winner of "best Japanese" by "Revista Veja Comer e Beber" for many of the last ten years.

Rua Dias Ferreira, 256 - Leblon tel: 2512-7830 | Mon-Fri 12pm-4pm and 7pm-2am; Sat 12pm-2am & Sun 1pm-12am |



Octopus w teriaki on rice cakes



Truffled Salmon Sashimi with caviar

Rio For Partiers

FEIJOADA

Casa da Feijoada

Casa da Feijoada's specialty is probably the most typical dish from Brazil: a black bean stew with hearty sausages and sun-dried beef, served with rice, collard greens, cassava (manioc) flour and orange slices. This may slow you down on the dance floor. A "must" experience. Feijoada with *caipirinha* go together like Starsky & Hutch, sticks & clutch. Ask for a caipirinha made with their oak-barrel aged "Vendaval" brand *cachaça*. (R\$79 for all you care to eat feijoada)

Rua Prudente de Moraes 10, Ipanema tel: 2247-2776 | 11am to 1am www.cozinhatipica.com.br

SPECIAL DEAL
FOR OUR READERS
CHECK FRONT FLAP



Complete Feijoada

WINE BAR

Brigite's

Brigite's is one of those tasteful places you could just hang out in all night: it's got Rio's favorite wine list, a varied gourmet cuisine, a hip cocktail bar and a chic lounge crowd after 11pm. Located next door to Zuka and Sushi Leblon. (entrees from R\$35 to R\$70 pp)

Recent awards and prizes: ★ "Best Wine Bar cuisine" Rio Show 2012

Rua Dias Ferreira 247, Leblon tel:2274-5590

SPECIAL DEAL
FOR OUR READERS
CHECK FRONT PAGE



Chimii-churi sea bass with pumpkin sauce

Rio For Partiers

PANORAMIC

Azul Marinho

There are two dishes in this restaurant that make it worth coming back: the first is the "pargo" fish in a rock salt mount, served with rice or potatoes. The rock salt is not used to season, but to cook the fish at an even temperature, allowing the meat to end up white, soft, moist and flaky, as opposed to dark, dry on the sides and under-cooked in the middle. *Pargo no sal grosso* is the name. The second is the Bahian Shrimp Moqueca, a shrimp-coconut milk stew to die for. Worth checking out day and night, as it's

outdoor tables overlook Ipanema and Leblon beaches. (entrees from R\$40 to R\$80 pp)

Av. Francisco Behring, Arpoador (Ipanema) tel: 2513-5014 | All week 12pm to 12am | www.cozinhatipica.com.br

SPECIAL DEAL
FOR OUR READERS
CHECK FRONT PAGE



Seafood Mix



Seafood Paella

FRUITS AND JUICES

The fastest way to try all the various fruits is to participate in Fruit Brazil's fruit tasting session page 80. Alternatively, any of the juice bars have most of these and others in juice form.

MANGA –MANGO

Considered by many the one fruit they would take with them to a desert island. Sweet and creamy. Vitamin A and C.



MARACUJÁ- PASSION FRUIT

Slightly bitter to a point that it makes your cheeks pucker, but very refreshing. Rich in complex B vitamins, iron and has natural soothing properties.



CAJÚ- CASHEW

Sweet and refreshing with a very distinctive taste and dominating smell. Rich in vitamin A, C and complex B.



GOIABA- GUAVA

Thick, sweet and smooth, just like me. Vitamin A, C, complex B and other minerals. Not recommended for those with digestive problems.



CANA-SUGAR CANE

The sweetest of all things on God's green earth. Always squeezed on the spot for best flavor.



ABACATE - AVOCADO

Thick and creamy it has the largest number of nutrients and vitamins. Great for breakfast.



MAMÃO - PAPAYA

Just as healthy as avocado, papaya is great for your intestinal works. Vitamin A and C, a natural laxative and stress reliever. Try it as a "vitamina", a smoothie.



ACEROLA

The king of vitamin C (each has more Vit. C than 40 lemons), acerola juice is refreshing and slightly citric.

AÇAÍ

Blended together with guarana, acai shakes (or very thick smoothies) should be consumed with a spoon and optionally a side of granola for sprinkling. Very caloric yet rich in proteins, fiber, vitamin E, minerals and is a natural cholesterol controller.



COCO - COCONUT WATER

The best thing when you are dehydrating under the sun. Drink 2 to cure your hangover. Rich in minerals, potassium and sodium.



GUARANÁ

Sold normally in concentrate juice form (refresco), guaraná could be considered a distant cousin of root beer, but, like every juice in Brazil, a lot sweeter. A stimulant and digestive. And dig this: clinically proven to enhance sexual performance.



PITANGA

Healthy fruit with citric yet milky taste. Rich in calcium, iron and phosphorus. A natural stimulant and anti-diarrheal.



Fruit fair weekly schedule:

They all start at 8am and end at 1pm!
 Mon: Rua Henrique Dumont (Ipanema)
 Tues: Praça General Osorio (Ipanema)

Wed: Praça Edmundo Bittencourt (Copa)
 Thu: Rua Min. Viveiro de Castro (Copa)
 Fri: Praça N. S. Paz (Ipanema)

Sat: Rua Frei Leandro (Jardin Botânico)
 Sun: Rua Serzedelo Correia (Copa)

FRUTA DO CONDE - CUSTARD APPLE

Ugly on the outside (looks like a grenade), sweet on the inside. Talk about



philosophical dualities! Very milky juice. Vitamin C and complex B.

JABUTICABA

A distant cousin of the grape, yet sweeter and thicker. Great in fruit form, specially when frozen. Bite, spit the seed and skin out. Rich in complex B vitamins.



AMORA

Dark South American blackberry. A highly effective cholesterol reducer.



CARAMBOLA - STARFRUIT

Star shaped football with a juicy, citric zing to it. Great in fruit or juice form.



MATE

Slightly caffeinated herb used to make iced tea, with a deep rich flavor.



CAMÚ-CAMÚ

Great name, but that's it. Terrible. dirt-like taste. Good for practical jokes. Rich in vit C.



GREAT DESTINATIONS CLOSE TO RIO

There are two ways to extend your vacation in Brazil. One way is to visit the neighboring tourist spots in the state of Rio; the other is to take a plane or bus to other popular tourist destinations. If you intend on coming back on future trips to different parts of Brazil, we highly recommend staying in the state of Rio. It offers a little of everything Brazil is known for, namely parties, beaches, jungle and colonial history. All these spots take under 3 hours to get to, by bus or car.

If you are staying longer than 7 days in Rio, we highly recommend checking out these neighboring areas, as they each offer things that Rio doesn't: Búzios is a party town with great beaches, the Petropolis area is great for mountainous sports, Ilha Grande has the best eco-tourism in the state and Paraty is knee-deep in culture, history and charm.



Paraty 👍👍👍👍
Historic town with beautiful beaches



Ilha Grande 👍👍👍👍
Eco-tourism heaven

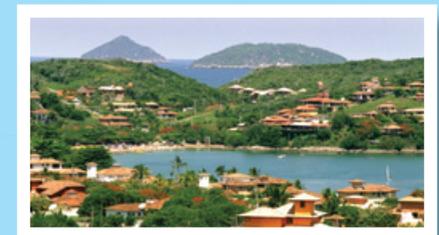


Petropolis & Itaipava 👍👍👍
Imperial city in cozy mountain range

Buzios 👍👍👍👍👍
The party town of the Southern Hemisphere

Rio de Janeiro

100 KM
60 MILES



BÚZIOS



Búzios is a claw shaped peninsula, with about 27 beaches, making it the St. Tropez of South America, with all the snobbery. Between December and March you can find the trendy 30 somethings there, as well as the young crowd, mostly partiers and surfers.

It has a complete tourist infrastructure that allows you to stay a week without getting bored.

Reservations are recommended for the week around Xmas, New Year and Carnival. Otherwise, finding a place to stay won't be hard, as it accommodates thousands of people during high season. Look for a pousada at Geribá (the coolest beach and where you will be spending your daytime) or downtown, close to "Rua das Pedras" (Centro) where you will be spending your evenings. Other areas will be too out of the way and not worth the savings.

To get to Búzios, take the 1001 bus from Novo Rio Bus Station, which takes 3 hours. Alternatively you can hire a car service for speed and comfort. Once there, you can rent a dune buggy or a car. Other good dates to go are during national holidays, should they land on a weekday, as everyone in Rio takes a sick day and makes it a 4-day weekend. Check: www.buziosonline.com.br

ACTIVITIES:

Surf lessons and body board rentals (Geribá), wind surfing (Manguinhos), wake boarding (Ferradura Beach), jet skiing (Centro Beach)

NIGHTLIFE:

Different clubs and bars along Rua das Pedras.

QUICK DECISION MAKER:

Main activities: Partying, dancing, beach, eating, surfing, windsurfing, jetskiing, snorkelling, etc.

Who usually goes: Singles, couples, groups

When to go: All year round on weekends, all week December to March. How long to stay: 3 to 10 days.

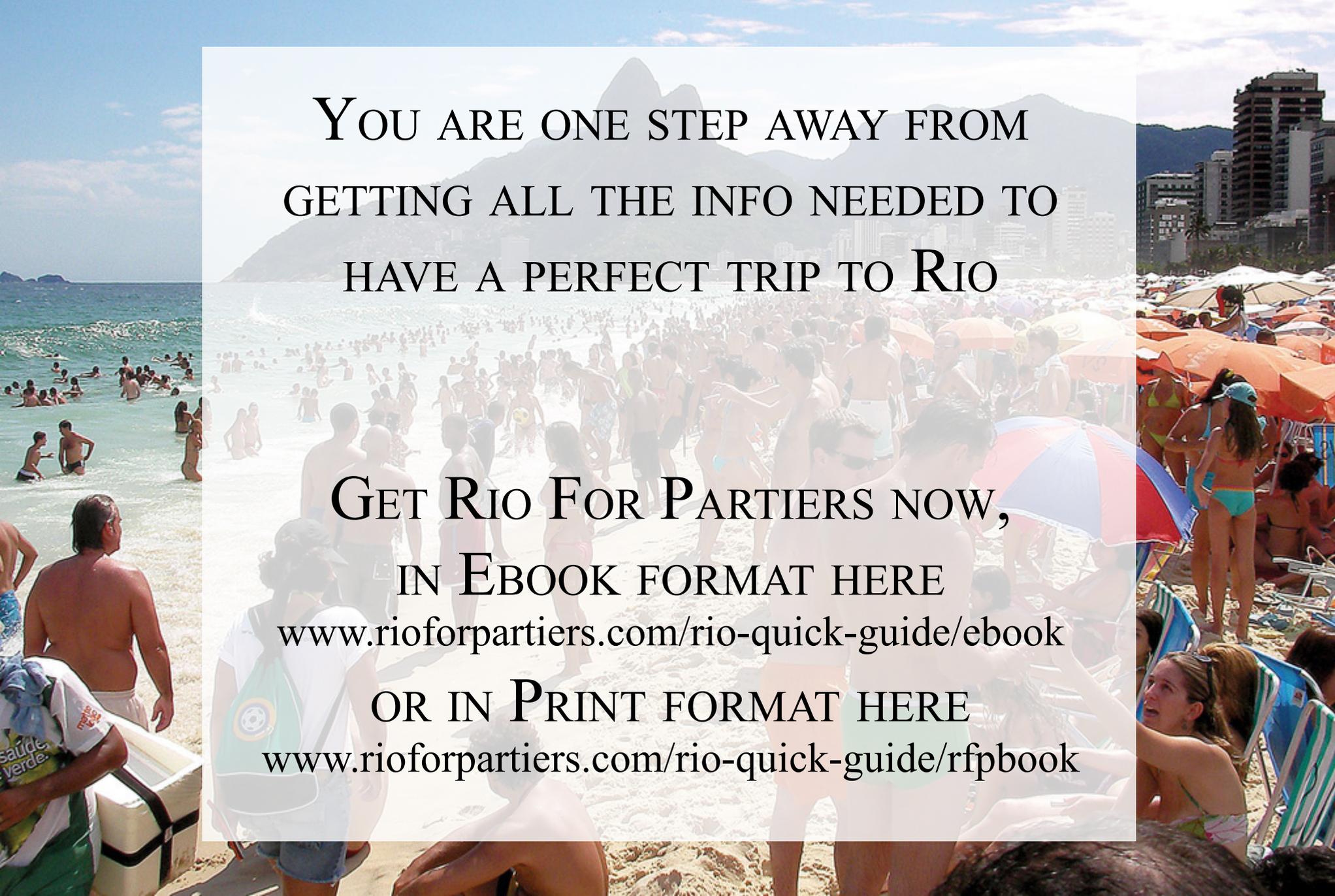
HOW TO GET THERE:

Rent a car from Localiza, type in the GPS "Buzios" and follow the directions. There will be 2 or 3 tolls on the way, so bring cash. Drive time from Rio: 3 hours.



South end of Geriba beach, the cool side





YOU ARE ONE STEP AWAY FROM
GETTING ALL THE INFO NEEDED TO
HAVE A PERFECT TRIP TO RIO

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www.rioforpartiers.com/rio-quick-guide/ebook
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Why get Rio For Partiers?

The COMPLETE guide to Rio: where to drink and eat, what to explore, what to buy, what to do at every moment



PAO DE ACUCAR

Ok, so you've spent a lot of money on your tickets to Rio. You've booked a nice place to stay, and you are ready to party. **But what are your options?** Rio is a city of 9 million, as large as NY. Any attempt to "wing it" will result in a hit & miss vacation. Money down the drain. That's where Rio For Partiers comes in: imagine a local friend guiding you the city. Where and when to be at every moment, so your trip is nothing but an exotic and exuberant feast of the senses.

Benefit #2

Experience Rio's tastiest FOODS



Complete visual guides to all the street snacks, fruits, desserts, drinks, bar food and of course traditional Brazilian dishes you should try.

Benefit #3

DON'T WASTE TIME. Hit the ground running



PALAPHITA KITSCH

Rio has so much to offer that every visit is short. Don't waste time asking vaguely informed locals.

Benefit #4

AVOID TOURIST TRAPS. Discover where to meet and how to deal with locals.



Rio For Partiers is the first to offer dating tips on how to meet all types of locals.

Benefit #5

SPOIL YOURSELF with dozens of girly pampering options!



COSMETIC VACATIONS



AMADERM



MULTIORAL DENTISTS



Brazil is very affordable when it comes to beauty services: Learn who the best cost x benefit are.

Benefit #6

UP-TO-DATE recommendations, so you can be sure that "in" spot hasn't gone cold.



GUAPÓ LOCO



THE IRISH PUB



KAMIKAZE



LAPA AT NIGHT



PRAIA VERMELHA



MARUZIN



OVELHA NEGRA



A TON OF FREEBIES!!!

WE HAVE NEGOTIATED 18 FREE DRINKS FOR ALL OUR READERS IN THE BEST SPOTS IN RIO.

That's right: tear the coupon off and get a free drink, no strings attached. You don't have to consume anything else. If you use a few of these coupons you'll already have paid for the book. Where you'll get free stuff:

WHERE YOU'LL GET FREE DRINKS:

GUAPO LOCO CLUB
ZAZÁ BISTRO
ZUKA RESTAURANT
DEVASSA BARS
OVELHA NEGRA CHAMPAGNE
CBF RESTAURANT
CASAS ROSA PARTIES
CENTRO CULTURAL CARIOCA MUSIC HOUSE
AMIR RESTAURANT
CASA DA FEIJOADA RESTAURANT
BRASILERINHO RESTAURANT
AZUL MARINHO RESTAURANT
HIDEAWAY CLUB
CRISTAL LOUNGE CLUB
PORCÃO RESTAURANT

Benefit #7

Packed with over 450 photographs.



Rio For Partiers tries to be as visual as possible, so you spend less time reading and more time enjoying Rio.

Benefit #8

FREE day & night maps.



Oversized Day and Night maps, pointing to exactly where all our recommendations are, so you can always be a few moments away from the best in Rio

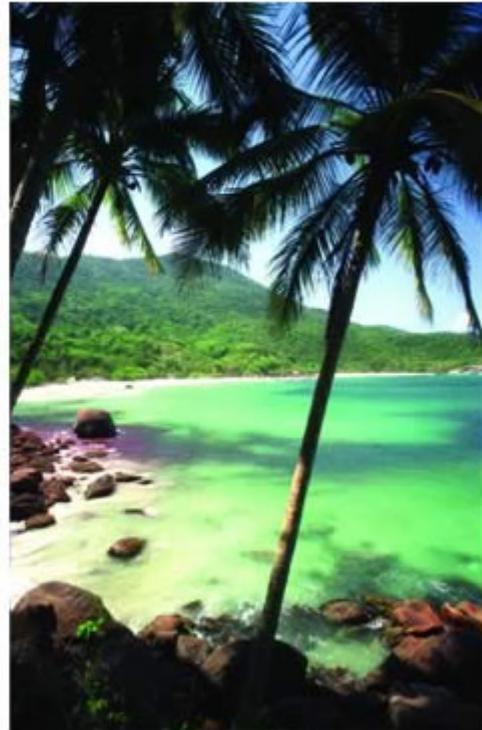
Get the low-down on 9 other Brazilian hot spots.



FOZ DO IGUACU



GERIBA - BUZIOS



PARATY

All the info you need to start planning and living it up in Buzios, Paraty, Ilha Grande, Petropolis, Salvador, Natal, Amazon, Pantanal and Foz do Iguacu

Benefit #10

Stress-tested by thousands of satisfied partiers from around the world.

👂 ★★★★★ This Book and 7 days are all you need to live it up in Rio

"Rio for Partiers is not your parents' travel guide; if you thought all travel guides are boring (hey I thought so too), you haven't checked out this amazing guide book, written for young people by young people. Live music, clubbing, street parties, or just plan chilling: it's all right there 🗨️"

Darkgenius - - for Amazon.com- Top 100 reviewer [read complete review](#)

Benefit #11

Save up to US\$190 per couple in one week with exclusive discounts at adventure sports & tours.



HOCA TOURS



OCEAN DIVING



SKYCENTER HANG-GLIDING



ARIBRÁ CLIMBING



IPANEMA



KITESURF



Most of the establishments listed have agreed to offer our readers a lower than usual discount, so you can save several times the price of this travel guide during your trip.

Street price guide, Portuguese cheat sheet, Emergency contacts & safety tips.



Pride #1

All 32 Amazon reviews give it 5 stars.

★★★★★ 🗨️ **A Rio de Janeiro guide book designed by young people for young people**

This Rio de Janeiro Travel guide is here to take care of you in Rio de Janeiro, which means not only reminding you to get flip flop sandals and after-sun solution, but also "remedio para desarranjo" (anti-diarhea medicine) and "remedio para ressaca" (hangover medicine).... 🗨️

Lawrance M. Bernabo - - for Amazon.com - Top 10 reviewer-

★★★★★ 🗨️ **This Book and 7 days are all you need to live it up in Rio**

"Rio for Partiers is not your parents' travel guide; if you thought all travel guides are boring (hey I thought so too), you haven't checked out this amazing guide book, written for young people by young people. Live music, clubbing, street parties, or just plan chilling: it's all right there 🗨️

- Darkgenius - - for Amazon.com- Top 100 reviewer

★★★★★ 🗨️ **Young Hearts Run Free**

"At a first glance the price seem high for a 148 page pocket-sized book, but ... these discounts will save you far more than the cost of the book."

Peter D. Harris - - for Amazon.com - Top 50 reviewer

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It was considered the best travel guide and best travel publication of any category, beating 484 world-wide entries for the 2005 competition. To find out more, [read the whole article here...](#)



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