



CELEBRATE

BRAZIL

Introducing South America's giant and one of the world's most captivating places





Presenting Brazil

THE MUSIC, the beaches, the wildlife and, most importantly, the people: it's hard not to fall in love with the world's fifth-largest country. Brazil's attractions extend from frozen-in-time colonial towns to otherworldly landscapes of red-rock canyons, thundering waterfalls and coral-fringed tropical islands. Add to that Brazil's staggering biodiversity – especially in the Amazon Rainforest and Pantanal wetlands – and rich blend of African, indigenous and European cultures.

If all that didn't already add up to an unfair share of heaven, Brazil boasts two of the most coveted sporting events in the world, beginning with the 2014 FIFA World Cup and followed two years later by the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Top things to do

- Go wildlife-watching in the Pantanal, home to the greatest concentration of fauna in the New World
- Peer out over the world's most famous rainforest from a canopy tower in the Amazon
- Dance to samba at an old-school dance hall in Rio's fabled Lapa district
- Join the mayhem of Brazil's biggest street party at Carnival in Rio, Salvador or Olinda
- Hike amid dramatic mountain scenery in the Chapada Diamantina
- Marvel at the breathtaking Iguazu Falls on the *Trilha das Cataratas* (Waterfall Trail) as they roar across the border of Brazil and Argentina

Getting under the skin

- **Read** *Gabriela, Clove and Cinnamon*, a portrait of 20th century Bahia by Jorge Amado, Brazil's most famous novelist
- **Listen** Jorge Benjor's Afro-Brazilian rhythms; classic bossa nova grooves from Joao Gilberto
- **Watch** Academy Award-winning *Central do Brasil* (*Central Station*), set in Rio and the northeast
- **Eat** *Feijoada* (black-bean and pork stew) and *moqueca* (a rich Bahian fish stew in coconut milk)
- **Drink** *Caipirinhas* made with *cachaça* (a sugar-cane alcohol), crushed limes and sugar

Brazilian basics

Capital Brasília

Cultural capital São Paulo

Population 198.7 million

Area 8,514,877 sq km

Brazil, in a word

Tudo bem? (All's well?)

Trademarks Carnival, football, bossa nova, samba, beaches, the Amazon, *favelas* (shanty towns)

Currency Real (R\$)

Language Portuguese

Visas Visas are required for some nationalities to enter the country, including Americans, Canadians and Australians.

Time GMT/UTC -3

Mobile phones Local SIM cards can be used in unlocked European and Australian phones, and in US phones on the GSM network here.





Meet Brazil, a country replete with tropical islands, lush rainforests, marvelous cities, a vibrant mix of cultures — and, of course, football.

1 Rio de Janeiro: The *Cidade Maravilhosa* (Marvelous City) contains a zest for life matched only by its verdant mountains and golden beaches. Rio offers a range of adventure: non-stop parties — like Carnival — plus surfing, rainforest hiking, and rock-climbing on the famous *Pão de Açúcar* (Sugarloaf Mountain).
Population: 6.3 M

2 São Paulo: *Sampa*, as locals know it, is Brazil's largest city and the third-largest metropolis on earth. Supported by the country's biggest and best-educated middle class, hundreds of distinct ethnic groups and a vibrant gay scene, São Paulo is a bubbling melting pot of world-class restaurants, museums, cultural centers, experimental cinemas and theaters.
Population: 19.9 M

3 Brasília: This futuristic capital replaced Rio as Brazil's seat of government in 1960. Lauded for its avant-garde design and architecture, it remains the only city in the world constructed in the 20th century to achieve World Cultural Heritage design by Unesco. Beyond the city, fiery red sunsets over lush *cerrado* (savannah) landscapes offer unparalleled views.
Population: 2.6 M

4 Belo Horizonte: Brazil's third-largest city, known locally as *Beagá* (Portuguese for 'BH' and pronounced 'bay-ah-gah'), is Brazil's most hospitable and friendly city. With good museums and cultural centers, hearty food and the most bars per capita in Brazil, Belo Horizonte's young, contagious energy bubbles from this mountain-surrounded urban sprawl.
Population: 2.4 M

5 Salvador: Once the capital of Portugal's New World colony, Salvador is the country's Afro-Brazilian jewel — a living museum of 17th- and 18th-century architecture. Salvador is the nexus of an incredible arts movement with frequent festivals. A gorgeous coastline lies right outside the city.
Population: 2.68 M

6 Porto Alegre: Southern Brazil's most important port city, this modern metropolis boasts verdant parks and great *botecos* (bars) surrounding a revamped colonial downtown designed with plenty of transportation hubs. A long tradition of progressive politics has helped nurture vibrant arts and alternative music scenes.
Population: 1.4 M

7 Manaus: The Amazon's largest city, this bustling former rubber boomtown is seated in the middle of the rainforest, a vibrant bastion of grit amid the oppressive jungle heat and humidity. Manaus has some genuinely rewarding sights, including a leafy zoo with as many animals out of the cages as in them.
Population: 1.9 M

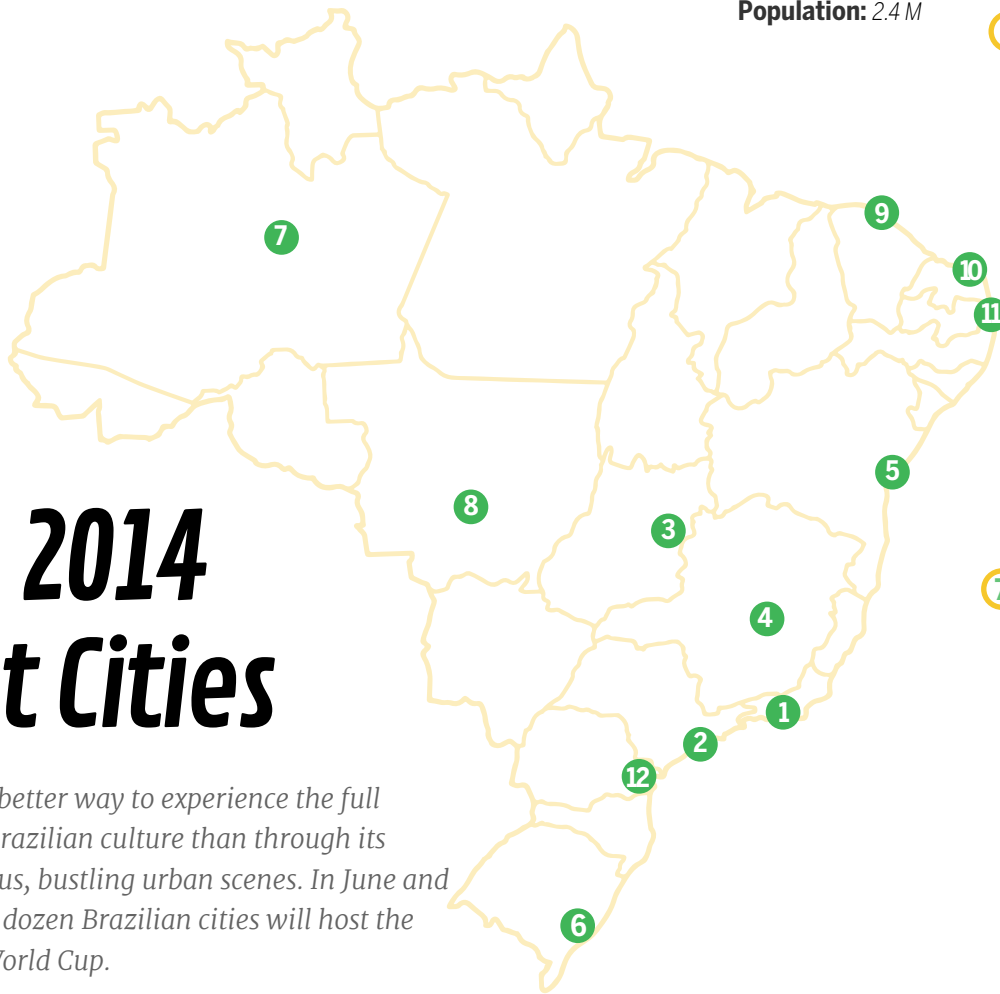
8 Cuiabá: This small citadel is actually two sister cities separated by the Rio Cuiabá: Old Cuiabá and Várzea Grande. A gold rush and later agriculture made Cuiabá one of the fastest-growing capitals in Brazil, however the population explosion has tailed off. It remains a lively place and a good starting point for excursions.
Population: 551,000

9 Fortaleza: Fortaleza is a large and sprawling place — one of the country's biggest cities and an economic magnet. It's also a major draw for tourists from all over Brazil and overseas, who come for the beaches, the party atmosphere and the spectacular smaller beach spots, rolling dunes and fishing villages.
Population: 3.6 M

10 Natal: Rio Grande do Norte's capital is a clean, bright yet bland city that has swelled as a hub for coastal tourism, much of it catering to Brazilian families. The Ponta Negra neighborhood's striking location, overlooked by fantastic sand dunes, with steady surf and some lively nightlife, is a major lure for visitors.
Population: 804,000

11 Recife: It's hot and humid, gritty and rough around the edges, but Recife is the cultural hub of the northeast, boasting a vibrant historic center, a rich music and arts bloodline, one of Brazil's best Carnivals and a lion's share of museums and cultural centers.
Population: 3.7 M

12 Curitiba: Praised for being one of the world's best models of urban planning, Curitiba is the easiest major city in Brazil to get around in, with one of the most efficient public transit systems on earth. Abundant green spaces, a well-heeled population and sophisticated infrastructure ensures a quality of life unparalleled in Brazil.
Population: 1.75 M



The 2014 Host Cities

THERE'S no better way to experience the full breadth of Brazilian culture than through its multitudinous, bustling urban scenes. In June and July 2014, a dozen Brazilian cities will host the 20th FIFA World Cup.



The Beautiful Game

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to overstate the cultural importance of football in Brazil – Brazilians, quite simply, are football mad. The country lives and breathes football every single day of the year, and during World Cup matches involving the beloved **a seleção** (the Brazilian national team), the country grinds to a halt.

A quick guide to Brazilian football

The game Brazilians are known to play the world's most creative, artistic and thrilling style of football. They're seen as lousy defenders, but no one minds because they make it so exciting.

The fans Revelers are no less fun to watch, bellowing the commonly heard Spanish bullfight-style 'olé!'. Fans pound drums (or the backs of chairs), wave huge flags, set off fireworks and smoke bombs and sometimes launch nefarious liquids at opposing fans.

The legends Brazil has raised many world-famous players, like Leonidas da Silva, who helped break racial barriers, and Romário. The greatest of all is Pelé, who played in 1366 games (including three World Cups) and scored more than 1200 goals by the time he retired in the 1970s.

The 2014 World Cup Brazil is the most successful nation in football (with five World Cup victories), and will be the fifth country to host the World Cup games twice. More than R\$27 billion has been spent in preparation, including on stadium construction and city infrastructure.

The clubs Brazil has more than 400 league teams with 20 top-level pro teams. Apart from a few short holiday breaks, matches are played year-round. There are a bewildering number of competitions, with hotly contested championships.

Need-to-know lingo

Who's playing? *Quem está jogando?* (Keng es-taa zho-gang-do)

Who's winning? *Quem está ganhando?* (Keng es-taa ga-nyang-do)

Hey! *Ei!* (Ay)

No way! *Nenhum!* (Ne-yoom)

Yes, great! *Sim, demais!* (Seeng, de-mais)

Give me a break *Dá um tempo* (Daa oom teng-po)

Piss off! *Sai fora!* (Sai fo-raa)

Who plays for (football club)? *Quem joga no (Flamengo)?* (Keng zho-gaa no)

He's a great player! *Ele é um ótimo jogador!* (E-le e oom o-tee-mo zho-gaa-dorr)

What a great/terrible team! *Que time ótimo/horrível!* (Ke tee-me o-tee-mo/o-hee-vel)

Celebrate Brazil with Lonely Planet

#lpecelebrasil

Get involved and see how fans across the planet are celebrating the World Cup

www.lonelyplanet.com/world-cup

Get live updates from Lonely Planet's author in Brazil



Flavors of Brazil

BRAZILIAN CUISINE is as syncretic as the country itself. Sizzling steaks, tender Amazonian fish, fresh tropical juices, refreshing cocktails and decadent desserts are all key elements of the Brazilian dining experience.

Fusion food

After the Portuguese found no mineral wealth in the 16th century, sugarcane production became king. This still-flourishing industry created Brazil's sweet tooth as well as its massive social divide. The wealthy adopted more European diets while the impoverished kept to beans and jerky. Indigenous foods (fish, fruit and manioc root) intermingled with Portuguese rice, pork and beef. Later, African slaves concocted leftover ingredients into whole dishes, an ingenuity that became the most distinctive influence on Brazil's cuisine.

Defining dishes



Acarajé

This peeled black-eyed pea bread has Nigerian origins and is a specialty of street food in Salvador, deep-fried in African *dendê* (palm) oil and munched with *vatapá*, a prawn and peanut/cashew paste.



Churrasco

Southern Brazil's most iconic dish consists of grilled chicken, beef (the most popular staple) or pork dredged in salt and roasted on a sword-like spit over an open flame.



Feijoda

The culinary representation of Brazil's heritage, this stew takes indigenous tribal staples (black beans and manioc flour) and combines them with Portuguese-introduced beef or pork for a hearty meal.



Moqueca

This vivacious dish stews seafood (octopus, lobster and prawns) in a clay pot with coconut milk as a thickener and throws in African *dendê* (palm) oil, yellow onion, tomato, coriander and green peppers.



Eat here

Botecos

Bars are as famous for their snacks as their alcohol; *boteco* cuisine includes unusual eats like *figado acebolado* (liver with onions).

Churrascarias

Barbecued-meat-eating houses; serving is via the *rodizio* system, with servers coming round and offering more until you're full.

Lojas de sucos

Juice bars selling cold *sucos* (fruit juices) are especially popular in hot weather.

Lanchonete

Snack bars; snacks are termed *petiscos* (tidbits) or *tira-gostos* (appetizers).



Wildlife & Nature

HOME TO the world's largest rainforest, as well as some of the greatest wetlands, Brazil boasts some of the most astounding plant and animal life on earth, with countless places to spot iconic species.

The Amazon

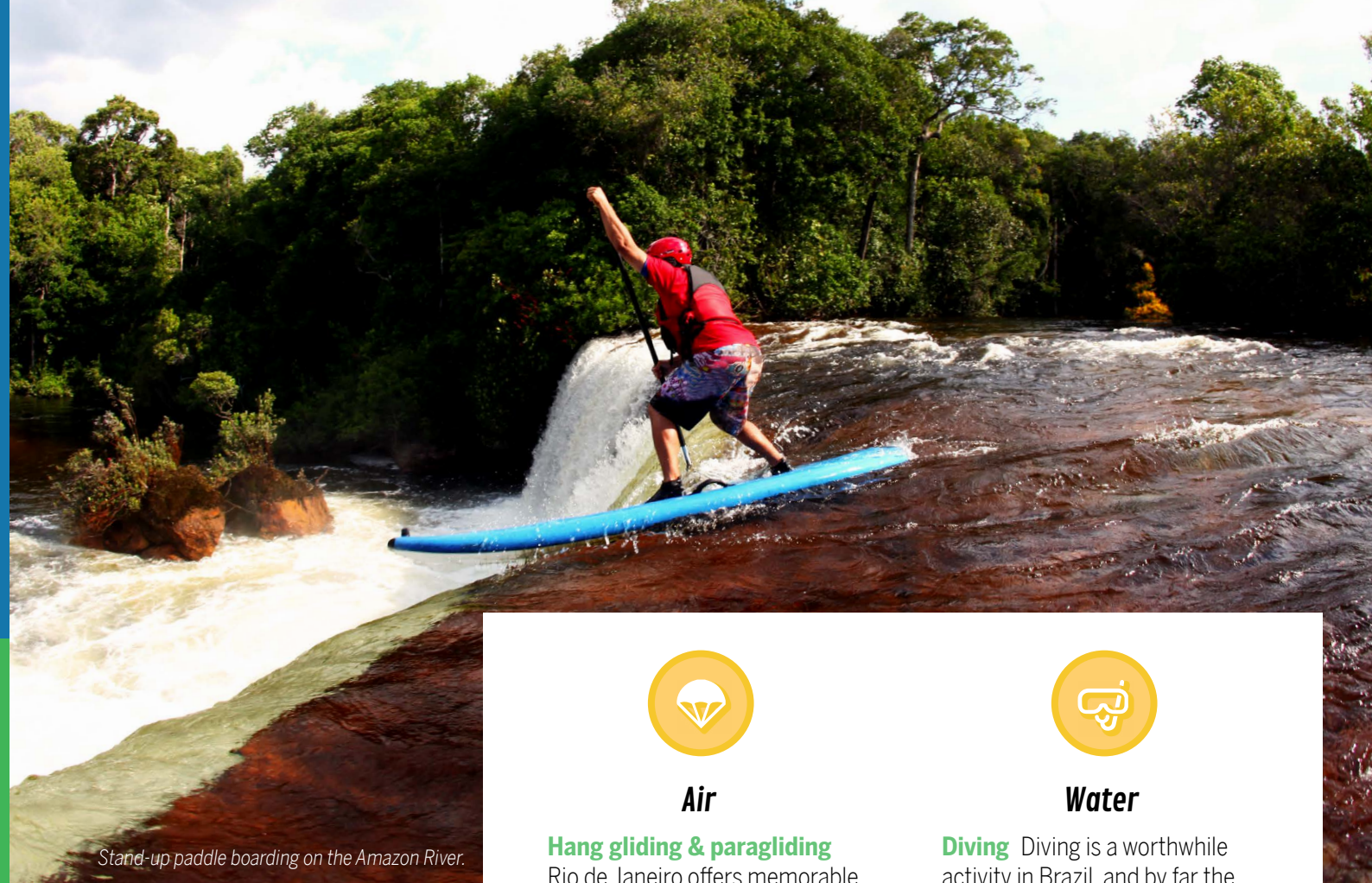
A staggering variety of animals call the Amazon Rainforest home, from exotic land mammals (such as elusive jaguars and three-toed sloths) and freshwater fish, to tiny insects and colorful birds such as the scarlet macaw and toucan. The lush rainforest is breathtakingly enormous, covering 4 million sq km — almost half the entire country. An excellent way to experience the Amazon is at a 'jungle lodge': many include a chance to sleep in the forest either just for a night at an established camp or hiking for two or three days on a 'survival tour.' Riverboats are very popular for day trips and longer stays, and tree climbing and sport fishing are also a great deal of fun here.

Atlantic Rainforest

Brazil's 'other' tropical rainforest, the *Mata Atlântica* is actually older than the Amazon Rainforest and evolved independently. Some areas boast what may be the highest biodiversity levels on earth. It also contains many unique species — 21 of its 26 primate species can be found only here, as are more than 900 of its 2000-plus kinds of butterflies and many of its 600-plus bird species. Unsurprisingly, many of these species are endangered, including the four types of lion tamarin and the two woolly spider monkeys (the largest primates in America).

The Pantanal

Covering more than 210,000 sq km of central Brazil, eastern Bolivia and northeastern Paraguay, the Pantanal is the largest inland wetland on the planet. It boasts a biodiversity that's the envy of everywhere, and it's the only place on earth where encounters with the majestic jaguar are more probable than possible. Seasonal flooding each year creates an enormously rich feeding ground for wildlife, supporting numerous species like the giant anaconda, puma, giant anteater, hyacinth macaw, giant otter, as well as many species of monkey. If you like to see animals in their natural environments, the Pantanal should not be missed.



Stand-up paddle boarding on the Amazon River.

Adventure & Outdoors

WITH LOADS of outdoor activities, Brazil is an adrenaline-junkie's dream destination. Its coastline, forests and mountainous interior set the stage perfectly for fresh-air adventures. There are hundreds of great surf spots all along the Atlantic, while the **chapadas** (tablelands) are ideal destinations for hikes and treks.



Air

Hang gliding & paragliding

Rio de Janeiro offers memorable tandem flights over tropical rainforests with views of the beach and island-filled ocean horizon. Picturesque Rio is also an ideal place for experiencing paragliding (*parapente*).



Water

Diving Diving is a worthwhile activity in Brazil, and by far the best *mergulho* (diving) is in the Fernando de Noronha archipelago, with excellent visibility, warm seas and abundant marine life (15 coral species, copious sea turtles and more than 200 fish species).

Snorkeling For those keen on more shallow waters rather than diving, nothing compares to snorkeling in the clear rivers around Bonito. Here you'll see some of the Pantanal's most famous fish: *pintados*, *pacus* and *dourados*.

Surfing The sport is a way of life in Brazil, with particularly good waves in the south. The best surf beaches are in Santa Catarina state and the Brazilian championships are held here at Praia da Joaquina, on Ilha de Santa Catarina.

Kayaking & canoeing Known for some of the most exciting canoeing in the country, the Amazon is famous for dugout-canoe trips. Kayaking is best off Ilha Grande, on the Lagoa de Conceição on Ilha de Santa Catarina, on excursions in the Pantanal, and from Itacaré and other beach destinations in the northeast.



Land

Climbing Brazil boasts climbs ranging from beginner level to the unconquered, which are all best in the cooler, drier months (April to October). Rio is the hub, with some 350 documented climbs within an hour's drive of the city.

Hiking Outstanding hiking destinations in Brazil are both in the national and state parks and along the coastline, especially in the south and southeast. The cooler months are optimal (April to October) due to the country's steamy tropical summer climate.



Festivals & Events

BRAZIL IS known for hip-shaking beats, dazzling costumes and parties that last until sunup, but Brazilians hardly limit their revelry to a few weeks, with **festas** (festivals) happening throughout the year.

Carnaval

When: Depending on Ash Wednesday

Where: Nationwide, but liveliest in Rio, Salvador and Olinda

For the five days preceding Ash Wednesday, Brazil's most famous bacchanalian event happens nationwide with parades, costumes and round-the-clock merrymaking.

Semana Santa

When: The week before Easter

Where: Ouro Preto

Semana Santa, or Holy Week (the week before Easter), is a colorful event of processions and streets 'painted' with flowers, parades and Catholic processions.

Festas Internacional de Balonismo

When: Late April or early May

Where: Torres

A colorful hot-air balloon festival with concerts, extreme sports, films and an open-air fair breathes vibrant life into a southern beach town for five days.

São Paulo Pride

When: June

Where: São Paulo

São Paulo, the gay capital of Latin America, throws the largest Gay Pride event on earth, attracting more than 3 million people to this massive parade and street festival.

Bumba Meu Boi

When: Late June through the second week of August

Where: São Luís

This lively event revolves around ancient European-, indigenous- and African-influenced folklore told through street performers, song, dance, theater and *capoeira*, a hybrid of martial arts and dancing, for more than a month.

Reveillon

When: 31 December, New Year's Eve

Where: Copacabana (Rio)

Every year, 2 million revelers dressed in white pack onto idyllic Copacabana beach to ring in the New Year with raucous music concerts, dancing and fireworks.

Fest Itália

When: Mid-July

Where: Blumenau

Celebrating the many cultural contributions to Brazil, this festival features a week of wine, pasta and music.

Oktoberfest

When: Mid-October

Where: Blumenau

This beerfest is one of Brazil's largest street parties — second only to Carnaval in Rio — and celebrates the country's German settlers who brought with them formidable brewing skills and a taste for Alpine architecture.

Carnatal

When: First week of December

Where: Natal

The country's biggest 'off-season Carnaval,' this Salvador-style fest includes wild street parties and pumping *trios elétricos* (bands playing atop mobile speaker-trucks).



Planning Your Getaway

ADVENTURE AWAITS in Brazil. Here's all the essential information to help you start planning your trip.



When to go

High season (December through March) Coinciding with the northern hemisphere's winter, hot and festive with Carnival and its surrounding events. Expect higher prices and minimum stays (typically four nights).

Shoulder (April & October)

The weather is warm and dry along the coast, though it can be chilly in the south. Prices and crowds are average, though Easter week and Oktoberfest draw crowds and high prices.

Low season (May through

September) Aside from July, which is a school-holiday month, you'll find lower prices and cold temperatures in the south. July to September is an excellent time to visit the Amazon or Pantanal.



Daily budget

Low budget (less than R\$200)

Staying in dorms, eating at *lojas de sucos* (juice bars) and taking long-distance buses.

Midrange (R\$200-400)

Staying in standard hotel rooms, dining at restaurants, taking jungle day trips, going out to nightclubs and taking one-way flights from Rio around Brazil.

Top end (over R\$400)

Staying in boutique hotels and upscale jungle lodges, eating at high-end restaurants and going to live-music venues.



Getting around

Plane

Useful for crossing Brazil's immense distances and can save days of travel. Prices are generally high, but airfare promotions are frequent.

Bus

Extensive services from *comun* (conventional) to *leito* (overnight sleepers) are available throughout the country, except in the Amazon.

Boat

Slow, uncomfortable, but brag-worthy transport between towns in the Amazon, with trips measured in days rather than hours.

Exchange rates:

Australia A\$1 R\$2.04

Canada C\$1 R\$2.02

Euro zone €1 R\$3.02

Japan ¥100 R\$2.18

New Zealand NZ\$1 R\$1.81

UK UK£1 R\$3.72

USA US\$1 R\$2.21

