

ICON·S 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BRASÍLIA BRAZIL

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is a valuable resource for anyone looking to explore the unique charm of Brasília and immerse themselves in the cultural, social, and architectural fabric of Brazil. Created by a dedicated team of students and professors from the Brazilian Chapter of ICON-S, the guide reflects a deeply local perspective, offering insights into favorite spots and programs that represent the essence of the city and the country. It goes beyond traditional tourist recommendations to showcase places that hold special meaning for those who live, work, and study here.

Playlist of Brazilian music to listen while preparing your trip

To make your trip preparation even more exciting, we've curated a special Brazilian music playlist just for you! Brazil is renowned for its vibrant and diverse music scene, blending rhythms and melodies that reflect the country's rich cultural heritage.

From the soothing sounds of Bossa Nova and the infectious energy of Samba, to modern hits in MPB (Música Popular Brasileira) and Forró, this playlist offers a taste of Brazil's musical soul. It's perfect for setting the mood as you pack your bags and get ready to immerse yourself in Brasília's unique atmosphere.

Turn up the volume, enjoy the tunes, and let the rhythm of Brazil accompany you as you prepare for this exciting journey!



CLICK HERE!



DISCOVER BRASÍLIA The capital of Brazil

Brasília, the capital of Brazil, is a modernist masterpiece and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Founded in 1960, it was designed by renowned architect Oscar Niemeyer and urban planner Lúcio Costa, embodying a vision of innovation and progress. Created to bring development to Brazil's interior, Brasília stands as a symbol of bold architectural ambition.

The city's layout resembles an airplane or a bird, with distinct sectors for government, commerce, and living. At Brasília the heart of lies the Monumental Axis. home to iconic landmarks such as the Congress, the Planalto Palace, and the Supreme Federal Court. The Cathedral of Brasília, with its stunning glass must-see for design. is а breathtaking interplay of light and space.

Brasília is also known for its vibrant cultural and natural attractions. The Paranoá Lake, an artificial reservoir, offers opportunities for water sports and leisure, while the city's many green spaces, like the Brasília National peaceful retreat. Park, provide a Visitors can also enjoy the city's excellent selection of cafés and restaurants, where Brazilian and international cuisine come together in innovative and delicious ways.

The city is relatively safe. During the day, the university campus and tourist attractions are peaceful places. However, being careful is always important. Keep your belongings safe and close to you, especially in places like the bus station. Walking with someone is a welcome measure, especially in places you don't know very well yet.



Fun Facts About Brasília

No Street Corners

Brasília's streets were designed without intersections, so you'll have to get used to navigating roundabouts and the city's unique flow.

Lakes and Beaches in the Heart of a City

Though you may associate beaches with coastal cities, Brasília features its own man-made beaches around Lake Paranoá, where locals relax and swim. The sand might not be salty, but it's a refreshing way to cool off! Between June and September, the Na Praia Festival takes place, an event with live shows and activities right by the lake. True to its name, "Na Praia" (On the Beach), it's a popular event. For more information, click here.

It's a City That Runs on Coffee

Brasília is where you'll find Brazil's most serious coffee lovers — it's not uncommon to hear someone talk about their 'coffee break' as a matter of national pride.

Beautiful Sunsets

Brasília is well known for having some of the most beautiful sunsets in Brazil, especially during the month of July.



MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

If you only have a short amount of time to visit them, we have highlighted five with the "(!)" symbol for you!

Three Powers Square (!)

The Three Powers Square is one of the most iconic landmarks in Brasília, symbolizing the harmony among the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. Surrounded by the Planalto Palace, National Congress, and Supreme Federal Court, it is both an architectural and political hallmark of the capital. Additionally, the square houses iconic sculptures, such as Os Candangos by Bruno Giorgi.

National Congress (!)

With its twin towers and iconic domes, the National Congress is the symbol of Brazil's Legislative Power. Designed by Oscar Niemeyer, the building combines architectural beauty with political significance. Guided tours allow visitors to explore the chambers and learn more about the workings of the Parliament.

Planalto Palace

The workplace of the President of the Republic, the Palace is a landmark of Brazilian modernism. Its architecture is characterized by curved columns, one of Niemeyer's most recognizable features. Guided tours offer a privileged view of the building's interior and its history.

City Park (Parque da Cidade)

Larger than New York's Central Park, Brasília's Parque da Cidade is the ideal spot for jogging, biking or simply relaxing. Visitors can enjoy playgrounds, shaded areas, and fresh coconut water.

Supreme Federal Court (!)

The country's Supreme Court is one of the three buildings that compose the Three Powers Square. Its modern façade is complemented by the sculpture A Justiça (Justice), by Alfredo Ceschiatti. Visitors can walk through the Court's main rooms and visit the Museum, which features historical documents and objects and since 2024 hosts an exhibition titled "After January Reconstruction. Memory, Democracy," referencing the attack that vandalized public buildings and institutions on January 8, 2023. The exhibit showcases damaged items, fragments resulting from the violence, and other physical traces of the attack.

Catetinho Museum

Known as the "first presidential residence in Brasília," the Catetinho was built in just ten days. The museum preserves objects and documents that tell the story of Brasília's founding. Located in a wooded area, it invites reflection on the early days of the capital.

Palácio da Alvorada

The official residence of the President of the Republic, the Palácio da Alvorada is an iconic example of Niemeyer's modernism. Its wing-shaped columns are a visual landmark of Brasília. Surrounded by gardens designed by Burle Marx, the palace represents the city's beauty.

Santuário Dom Bosco

Dedicated to São João Bosco, the city's patron saint, this church is known for its blue stained-glass windows that fill the interior with natural light.





Pantheon of the Motherland and Freedom

The Pantheon of the Fatherland celebrates national heroes who contributed to Brazil's history, such as Tancredo Neves and Tiradentes. Its dove-shaped design is a tribute to peace and freedom. Inside, the Livro de Aço (Book of Steel) honors the names of these heroes.

TV Tower (!)

Standing 224 meters tall, the TV Tower offers a free panoramic view of the city. From its observation deck, visitors can admire Brasília's urban design. At the base of the tower, a craft and local gastronomy fair attracts visitors.

Metropolitan Cathedral (!)

The Metropolitan Cathedral of Brasília is a masterpiece by Niemeyer. Inside, colorful stained glass creates a dazzling luminous effect for visitors. It's located right next to the National Museum, making it easy for visitors to explore both on foot.

Planetarium of Brasília

The Planetarium of Brasília invites visitors to explore some photos of the universe. With modern projections, it is an educational and fun experience for all ages. Located on the Monumental Axis, it complements the cultural experience of the city's center.

Palácio do Itamaraty (!)

Known as one of the most beautiful buildings in Brasília, the Itamaraty Palace, or the Palace of the Arches, is a masterpiece of modernist architecture. Designed by Oscar Niemeyer, it houses the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is a symbol of elegance and sophistication. The building is surrounded by reflecting pools and lush gardens, which add to its stunning appearance. The interior features impressive works of art, grand halls, and a breathtaking spiral staircase.

To visit the Itamaraty Palace, reservations are required in advance. Guided tours are available and provide insight into the architectural details and the building's significance. For reservations, you can contact the palace at +55 (61) 2030-8051 or e-mail visita@itamaraty.gov.br. This is a must-see for anyone interested in Brasília's architectural heritage.

Memorial of Indigenous Peoples

Designed by Oscar Niemeyer, the Memorial of Indigenous Peoples honors Brazil's indigenous cultures. The space features exhibitions of artifacts, crafts, and cultural expressions. Its circular architecture resembles traditional huts, creating a symbolic connection with the represented communities.

Pontão do Lago Sul (!)

The place has several restaurants and a privileged view of Lake Paranoá. A great place to meet a group of friends to eat and chat.

National Museum (!)

With its unique shape, the National Museum is one of Brasília's main cultural landmarks. The space hosts temporary exhibitions on art, history, and science. Its privileged location on the Esplanade of Ministries makes it a must-see stop.

SQS 308 SUL - Quadra Modelo, e Igrejinha

The SQS 308 Sul, also known as the "model superblock," offers a fascinating glimpse into life in Brasília's Plano Piloto. It is part of the city's grand design, envisioned by Lúcio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer, who together planned Brasília as a modernist utopia. This superblock exemplifies their unique urban planning vision, aiming to create an ideal lifestyle for its residents. SQS 308 is surrounded by other notable blocks, forming the "quadrilátero modelo": SQS 107, 307, 108, and 308, with each contributing to the understanding of Niemeyer's and Lúcio Costa's vision.

Highlights include the Igrejinha Nossa Senhora de Fátima, a charming chapel designed by Oscar Niemeyer, and the beautiful landscaping of the SQS 308 Sul by Burle Marx. These quadras also feature libraries, schools, and cultural spaces, providing an immersive experience of how Brasília's residents live and interact with their environment. The model superblock is also a subject of study worldwide, celebrated as an exemplary project in architecture and urbanism. It represents a lifestyle considered ideal by its creators, blending residential, social, and cultural elements seamlessly. Exploring these blocks is a must for anyone seeking to understand the harmonious blend of architecture, urban planning, and daily life in the city.





CONFERENCE VENUE

University of Brasília (UnB)

Brief history of the University of Brasília (UnB)

The University of Brasília (UnB) was founded 1962 in by prominent educators Darcy Ribeiro and Anísio Teixeira. Renowned as one of Brazil America's and Latin most distinguished higher education institutions, UnB is celebrated for its cultural diversity and commitment to innovation through fostering persistent quest for groundbreaking and contributions solutions scientific research.

It is one of the most prestigious universities in Brazil and also one of the largest among Brazil's institutions: it has around 2600 professors and 47.000 students enrolled in 136 bachelor's degrees, 86 master's degrees, and 68 doctoral degrees.

The UnB, like other Brazilian public universities, charges no fees to its students. It was the first Brazilian federal university to develop its own race-based affirmative action for the black and indigenous program in 2003 via quotas, which has proven to be remarkably successful over the years.

By providing opportunities for students from historically disadvantaged backgrounds, the program has effectively increased diversity and representation within the university and has served as an inspiring model for other Brazilian public universities.





Darcy Ribeiro Campus Structure

The University of Brasília (UnB) is one of the key landmarks for those seeking to understand the history and culture of Brasília. Founded in 1962, UnB was conceived by Darcy Ribeiro, one of Brazil's most prominent intellectuals, with a revolutionary project for higher education. His vision aimed to integrate teaching, research, and community outreach in innovative ways.

Inspired by progressive ideals, Darcy's plan sought to educate not just skilled professionals but also critical and conscious citizens.

UnB operates across four campuses, with the Darcy Ribeiro University Campus in Asa Norte being the largest and most traditional. Spanning approximately 400 hectares and featuring over 500,000 m² of built area, the campus houses iconic buildings such as the Central Institute of Sciences (ICC), the Central Library (BCE), and the Faculty of Law (FD).

Renowned architect Oscar Niemeyer played a central role in designing this campus, making it a hallmark of modern Brazilian architecture. Its structures, characterized by Niemeyer's signature curved lines and expansive spaces, were designed to promote interaction and the exchange of ideas among students, professors, and researchers.

Architectural highlights include the Central Institute of Sciences, commonly known as "Minhocão," a monumental structure that combines vast scale with practical functionality, and the Darcy Ribeiro Memorial, which celebrates the founder's enduring legacy.

The University's history is also marked by periods of turmoil, particularly during Brazil's military dictatorship (1964-1985). Following the 1964 coup, UnB became a target of intense repression.

Professors and students were persecuted, imprisoned, and exiled, turning the institution into a symbol of intellectual resistance against the authoritarian regime. Direct attacks, such as military invasions of the campus, are part of its collective memory, underscoring the courage and resilience of its academic community.

Today, UnB remains a hub of academic and cultural excellence, attracting students from across Brazil and the globe. A visit to its campuses offers an opportunity to explore not only its unique architecture but also to connect with an institution that embodies the living history of education and resistance in Brazil.





PLAN YOUR TIME IN BRASILIA

Transport information

For personal transportation, we recommend that you use a transport app, such as Uber, 99, or similar apps. These apps work very well in Brasília, being used daily by many people in the capital. The option is safe and affordable. Before confirming any trip, make sure you are going to the correct location and try to be as specific as possible when entering a destination address.

For example, when you are going to the University of Brasília, make sure you are going to the correct building on the Darcy Ribeiro Campus. The University of Brasília has four campuses and they are all far from each other.

Distance from the Airport to the UnB

The Brasília International Airport (Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek Airport) is located approximately 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the University of Brasília (UnB). Depending on traffic, the journey typically takes 20 to 30 minutes by car.

The easiest and most convenient way to travel from the airport to the university is by using a ride-sharing app such as Uber or 99, which are affordable and widely available. Alternatively, you can opt for a taxi, which is readily available at the airport.

Please note that there is a designated Uber pickup location at the airport, situated in front of the main building. To find it, walk as if you were leaving the airport, cross the pedestrian crossing, and you will arrive at the designated area.

While at the airport, you may encounter drivers offering trips, but it is important to never accept these offers. Always book your ride through the Uber app and head directly to the designated pickup location.

An Uber ride in Brasília has the following estimated costs, varying due to exchange rates, traffic conditions, and Uber's dynamic pricing:

- From Brasília Airport (BSB) to the Law School at UnB
 - Approximately R\$65 (\$13)
- From Brasília Airport to the Setor Hoteleiro Norte
 - Approximately R\$50 (\$10)
- From Brasília Airport to the Setor Hoteleiro Sul
 - Approximately R\$50 (\$10)
- From Setor Hoteleiro Norte to the Law School at UnB
 - Approximately R\$25 (\$5)
- From Setor Hoteleiro Sul to the Law School at UnB
 - Approximately R\$25 (\$5)

Getting Around

The University of Brasilia Campus is located in the heart of Asa Norte, one of Brasilia's most charming neighborhoods.

Navigating Brasília can be straightforward with the right information.

While on campus, walking is a convenient way to get around. The University of Brasília (UnB) has a spacious, pedestrian-friendly layout, making it easy to reach your destination on foot. However, the campus is large and it is worth checking the distance first.

For more information about walking around the University of Brasília (UnB), please refer to this guide.

When traveling outside the university, we recommend using Uber. While there are public buses available, they are not the most comfortable option for visitors unfamiliar with the city. For those who choose this option, several lines of buses go to the Darcy Ribeiro campus:

- Linha 0.110 Plano Piloto Bus Station/UnB
- Linha 110.2 Plano Piloto Bus Station/ UnB
- Linha 0.116 Plano Piloto Bus Station/ W3-L2 Norte

You can find more details about these routes here.

We also recommend the bus app, Moovit.

Brasília has a subway system that operates in the southern parts of the city. However, it does not extend to Asa Norte, where the University of Brasília (UnB) is located.

Ride-share apps are a popular and affordable means of transportation in Brazil.

Uber is widely used and offers accessible rates, but other apps like 99 app and local taxis are also good alternatives. To ensure a smooth experience, it's advisable to confirm your ride details before getting in the car.





Restaurants

Lago Restaurante

- SHIS QI 5, Lago Sul
- 20 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Brazilian fine-dining

Teta Cheesebar

- CLS 103 BI B
- □ 12 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Craft beer, cheese, and great food

Apetite Natural

- CLN 407, Bloco B
- A minute drive from UnB Law School
- Vegan restaurant, great option for lunch

The Plant

- CLN 109 Bloco B
- Healthy and tasty food

Rubaiyat

- SCES, 1
- □ 13 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Brasília's best steakhouse, by the lake

Jamburita

- SCRN 714/715
- □ 10 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Great seafood and cocktails, casual environment, LGBTQIA+ friendly

Noru

- □ 10 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Specializes in fine Japanese dining and cuisine

Chincho Burguer

- **♀** SQN 304
- □ 7 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Classic burger, one of Brasília's best

IVV Swinebar

- CLN 314 BI B
- 9 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Wine, cheese, and pork

Coffee Shops

Los Baristas

- CLN 404 BI C
- □ 6 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Great coffee and food

Casa de Chás

- Praça dos Três Poderes
- □ 12 minute drive from UnB Law School
- At the heart of Brasília, amazing food and varied tea options

Studio Grão Coffee Roasters

- 20 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Best coffee in Brasília

Civitá Café

- SCLRN 709 Bloco F
- □ 7 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Wholesome brunch food, single origin filtered coffee

Bars

Iracema

- SQN 213, Bloco B
- 6 minute drive from UnB Law School
- One of Brasília's best places to have a nice drink

Altas

- CLN 206, Bloco C
- 5 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Great drinks and live jazz at an unexpected place

Buteco do Encontro

- CLN 206, Bloco C
- 5 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Beer and live samba music

Balcão

- CLN 206, Bloco D
- 5 minute drive from UnB Law School
- Wine bar with a chill vibe





Language

The official language of Brazil is Portuguese. While some locals in Brasília may understand basic English and Spanish, especially in tourist areas and universities, fluency in English or Spanish is not widespread. It's a good idea to learn a few key phrases in Portuguese or use a translation app for smoother communication. Signs and menus are usually in Portuguese, so familiarity with the language will enhance your experience.

Essential Phrases for Getting Around in Brazil

Hello

Oi (O-ee) Olá (Oh-lah)

Good morning

Bom dia (Bohm jee-ah)

Good afternoon

Boa tarde (Boh-ah tar-jee)

Good night

Boa noite (Boh-ah noh-ee-chee)

Thank you

In Portuguese, "thank you" is gendered:

- Women say Obrigada (Oh-breegah-dah).
- Men say Obrigado (Oh-bree-gahdoh).

For those who prefer gender-inclusive language, you can use Obrigade (Ohbree-gah-deh).

All three expressions convey gratitude, translating to "obliged," as in "I'm obliged to return this favor."

You're welcome

De nada (Deh nah-dah)

Please

Por favor (Poor fah-vohr)

Excuse me

Com licença (Kohn lee-sehn-sah)

Sorry

Desculpe (Dehs-kool-peh)

How much does it cost?

Quanto custa? (Kwan-too koos-tah)

I don't understand

Eu não entendo. (Ew now en-ten-doh)

Do you speak English?

Você fala inglês? (Vo-seh fah-lah eenglehs)

Where is the bathroom?

Onde fica o banheiro? (On-jee fee-kah oon bahn-yay-roo)

Can you help me?

Você pode me ajudar? (Vo-seh poh-jee meh ah-joo-dar?)

Cheers!

Saúde! (Sah-oo-jee) (Used when toasting drinks; it literally means "health.")



Currency and Money

Brazil's currency is the Brazilian Real (BRL), symbolized as R\$. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in most establishments, but it's a good idea to carry some cash for smaller vendors or street markets. ATMs are available throughout Brasília.

When exchanging money, stick to official exchange bureaus or banks for better security.

Time

Brasília operates on Brasília Time (BRT), which is UTC -3. Currently, there is no daylight saving time in Brazil, so the time remains constant throughout the year.

Keep in mind that shops, restaurants, and public offices may have specific operating hours, so plan ahead to avoid inconvenience. Typically, shops operate from 9 AM to 7 PM on weekdays and 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays, while restaurants usually open from 11 AM to 11 PM. Public offices often function from 8 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday.

Weather

The biome in Brasilia is known as "Cerrado". It is a vast tropical savanna ecoregion of Brazil. The yearly average temperature in Brasilia is 20.5°C (69°F).

Brasília has a dry season and a rainy season. The dry season is from May to September. During the dry season, the weather cools down. The coldest month is July, with temperatures ranging from 18°C to 25°C and minimal chances of rain. However, midday can still feel quite warm.

Electricity (110v/220v)

In Brazil, the standard electricity voltage varies depending on the region. The two most common voltages are 110V and 220V, and they are not standardized across the country. For example, Brasília operates on 220V, while São Paulo typically uses 110V. It's essential to check your devices and chargers before plugging them in to avoid damage.

Most modern electronic devices, such as smartphones and laptops, are dual voltage (100V–240V), which makes them compatible with both systems. However, for single-voltage appliances like hair dryers or curling irons, you may need a voltage converter or transformer. It's also worth noting that power outlets in Brazil typically accept Type N plugs. If your device uses a different plug type, you'll need an adapter.

For safety, always verify the voltage and outlet compatibility before use.

Tipping

In restaurants, a 10% service charge is often included in the bill, so additional tipping is optional. If the service charge is not included, leaving a tip of around 10% is appreciated, but it's not required.

In taxis, rounding up the fare is common, but tipping is not mandatory.

For hotel staff, such as bellhops or housekeeping, a small tip of R\$20 to R\$30 is generally sufficient.

While tipping is not obligatory in Brazil, it is a nice way to acknowledge good service and is not considered offensive if you choose to leave one.



Drinking Water in Brasília

In Brasília, tap water is generally safe to drink. However, it's not common for Brazilians to drink water directly from the tap, and many prefer bottled water.

In restaurants, the option "Água da Casa" typically refers to filtered water provided by the establishment, ensuring its quality and safety for customers. If you prefer, bottled water is widely available throughout the city. For those staying in hotels or accommodations, it's common to find filtered water available as well.

What to do in an emergency

If you are in an emergency situation, please note the contact details below:

- Police: 190
- Fire Department: 193
- Emergency Medical Care Service:192
- Emergencies in general: 112 and 911 (numbers also adopted in Brazil to facilitate foreigners contacting emergency services).

For urgent medical attention, head to one of Brasília's main hospitals.

In Brazil, all medical care provided at public hospitals is free of charge, including outpatient consultations, emergency services, and hospital stays. Ambulance services, such as those offered by Samu (Dial 192), are also completely free of charge and available for emergencies. This free care is available not only to Brazilian citizens but also to foreign visitors.

The recommended public hospital options near the Plano Piloto area are:

- Hospital Universitário de Brasília (HUB): 605 Norte
- Hospital Regional de Asa Norte (HRAN): 101 Norte
- Hospital Sector North: 516 Norte
- Hospital Sector South: 716 Sul
- Base Hospital: 101 Sul

However, for those who prefer private healthcare, excellent options are available, such as Hospital Sírio-Libanês (SGAS II SGAS 613 s/n Lote 94 - Asa Sul) and DF Star (SHLS 716 Bloco D - Asa Sul).

To access private hospitals, visitors will either need to have pre-existing health insurance or pay for services directly.

Some Precautions

Be Mindful of Your Belongings

Brasília, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, like many large cities, has areas where petty theft can occur, especially in crowded places like public transportation, markets, and tourist attractions. Keep your valuables, such as wallets and cameras, secure and avoid displaying expensive items openly.

Stay Alert with Your Phone

Mobile phones are a common target for pickpockets and opportunistic theft. Use your phone discreetly, especially when walking on the street or waiting in public areas. Consider stepping into a café or shop if you need to use your phone for navigation or messaging.



DAY TRIPS FROM BRASÍLIA

For those looking to explore beyond the city, Brasília serves as a gateway to some breathtaking destinations nearby.

Here are two standout options for day or multi-day trips. Both destinations are accessible by car, and guided tours are available for those who prefer not to drive.

These trips provide a perfect opportunity to experience the natural and cultural richness of central Brazil.

Pirenópolis

Distance

Around 150 kilometers (93 miles) from Brasília

Travel Time

Roughly 2-2.5 hours by car

Highlights

A charming colonial town famous for its wellpreserved architecture, cobblestone streets, and vibrant artisan markets. It also offers nearby waterfalls for nature lovers

Suggested duration

A day trip is possible, but staying overnight allows more time to explore



Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park

Distance

Approximately 230 kilometers (143 miles) from Brasília.

Travel Time

About 3-4 hours by car.

Highlights

Known for its stunning waterfalls, crystal-clear natural pools, and unique Cerrado vegetation, Chapada dos Veadeiros is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that offers incredible hiking and nature experiences.

Suggested duration

A minimum of 2-3 days is recommended to fully enjoy the park's beauty and activities.

Key Locations

Alto Paraíso

A small town inside the Veadeiros National Park, offering a range of accommodations, restaurants, and easy access to the park's main trails.

São Jorge

A quaint village closer to the main entrance of the park, providing a more rustic and immersive experience. It's perfect for travelers looking for a quieter atmosphere and proximity to nature.



VISITING OTHER BRAZILIAN STATES?

BRIEF GUIDE TO RIO DE JANEIRO & SÃO PAULO





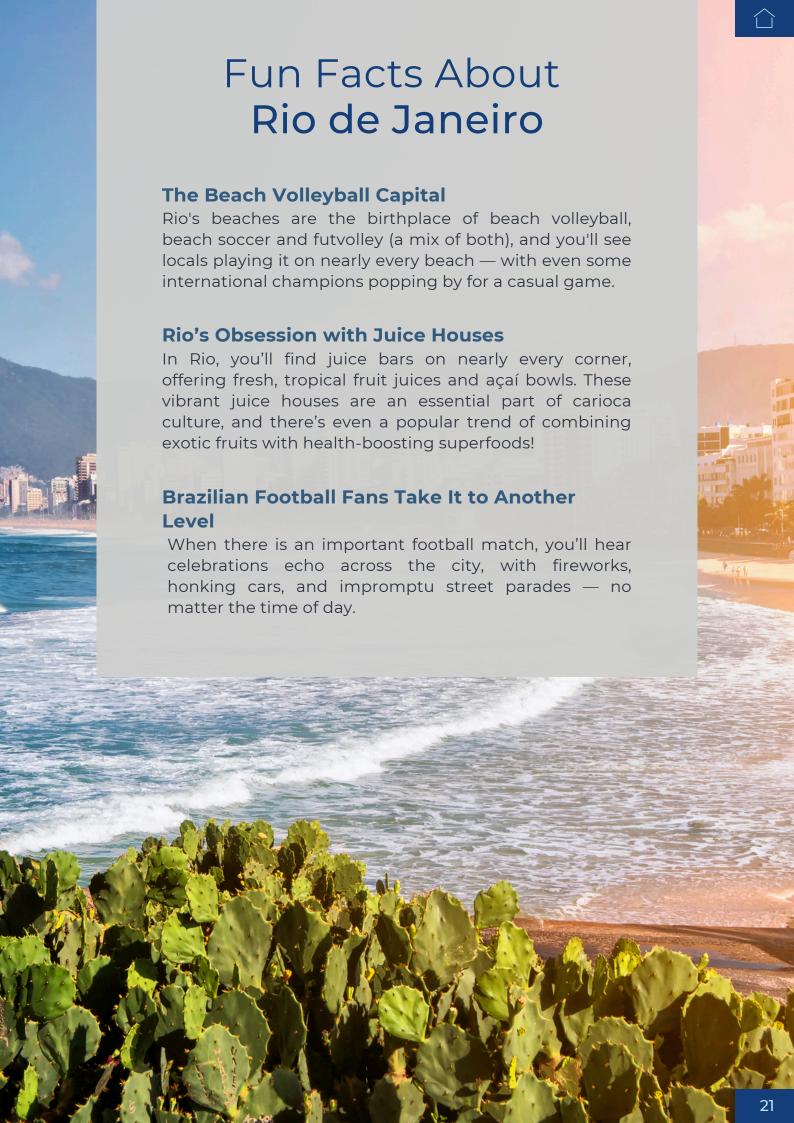
RIO DE JANEIRO

About Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro, known as the "Marvelous City," is one of the most iconic tourist destinations in Brazil and the world. Its breathtaking landscapes combine golden sandy beaches, towering mountains, and the vibrant Atlantic Forest, offering a unique experience. Rio is home to Tijuca Forest, the world's largest urban rainforest, which offers hiking trails, waterfalls, and wildlife in the heart of the city.

Beyond its natural beauty, Rio is rich in history and culture, having served as the capital of Brazil for nearly two centuries. The city played a pivotal role during the colonial and imperial periods and is home to architectural treasures such as the National Library, the Royal Portuguese Reading Room, and the Municipal Theater. Its vibrant cultural scene is reflected in samba, bossa nova, and the traditions of Carnaval, which attract millions of visitors with their colors, music, and contagious joy.

For those traveling from Brasília, the best way to reach Rio is by plane. There are direct flights between Brasília and Rio de Janeiro, typically taking about 1 hour and 45 minutes. This convenient option allows visitors to quickly transition from the capital's modern architecture to the lively rhythm and natural beauty of Rio. A trip to the Marvelous City is an unforgettable journey into beauty, energy, and cultural diversity.





Tourism

Cristo Redentor

Located at the top of Corcovado Mountain, is one of Brazil's most iconic landmarks and offers a breathtaking panoramic view of Rio de Janeiro. The statue, considered one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, is a symbol of faith and culture.

Pão de Açúcar

Pão de Açúcar Mountain is an iconic postcard of Rio de Janeiro, famous for its cable cars connecting Praia Vermelha to the mountain's summit. From the top, visitors can enjoy views of Guanabara Bay and Rio's coastline.

Royal Portuguese Reading Room

The Royal Portuguese Reading Room is an architectural and literary gem, housing a collection of over 350,000 volumes. Adorned with carved wooden shelves and stained glass, is considered one of the most beautiful in the world.

Fort Copacabana

Fort Copacabana is a historical and cultural landmark offering privileged views of Rio's coastline. In addition to its military significance, it houses a museum and the famous Café do Forte, perfect for a break with an incredible view.

MAM (Museum of Modern Art) Rio

The Museum of Modern Art (MAM) in Rio is a must-visit for art lovers, showcasing a rich collection of modern and contemporary art from Brazil and around the world.

Cais do Valongo and Surrounding Region

Cais do Valongo and Surrounding Region The Cais do Valongo area, located in the Saúde neighborhood, is a significant historical and cultural site, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It once served as the primary port for the arrival of enslaved Africans in Brazil, and today it stands as a powerful reminder of Rio's complex history. Nearby, the Museu do offers visitors а understanding of the African diaspora's impact on Brazil. The region also boasts other notable attractions such as the Museu do Amanhã, a strikingly futuristic focused science museum on sustainability, and the Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR), which celebrates Brazilian art and culture. The surrounding area is a dynamic mix of historical reflection and contemporary innovation, providing a unique opportunity to experience Rio's past and present in one place.

CCBB Rio (Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil)

The Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (CCBB) is one of Rio's most iconic cultural centers, offering a wide range of artistic and cultural events. Housed in a stunning historic building in downtown Rio, CCBB hosts everything from art exhibitions to theater performances, music concerts, and cinema screenings. The center is known for its eclectic programming and its ability to bring together diverse forms of artistic expression. With its mix of contemporary and traditional art, CCBB is a perfect place to explore the cultural richness of Rio while enjoying the charm of its beautiful architecture.



Restaurants / Bars

Restaurante Aprazível

- Rua Aprazível, 62 Santa Teresa, Rio de Janeiro. RJ
- Famous for its breathtaking views of Rio de Janeiro and its delightful Brazilian cuisine. Located in the bohemian neighborhood of Santa Teresa, it's the perfect spot to enjoy regional dishes in a tranquil, open-air setting.

Braseiro da Gávea

- Praça Santos Dumont, 116 Gávea, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- ♠ A laid-back and lively spot, Braseiro da Gávea is well-known for its delicious picanha (grilled rump steak) and hearty portions. It's a favorite among locals and visitors looking for authentic Brazilian barbecue.

Oro Restaurante

- Rua General San Martin, 889 Leblon, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- ♠ A two-Michelin-starred restaurant, led by chef Felipe Bronze. It offers a unique dining experience that combines Brazilian ingredients with modern techniques in a refined and intimate setting.

Restaurante do Bira

- Ilha de Guaratiba, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- Located in the tranquil Ilha de Guaratiba, Restaurante do Bira is a cherished destination for fresh seafood and traditional Brazilian dishes.

Lapa and Traditional Samba Houses

- Lapa, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- Lapa is the heart of Rio's nightlife and cultural scene, known for its lively atmosphere, historic architecture, and deep connection to samba. Lapa offers visitors the opportunity to experience traditional samba in its most authentic form. Among its beloved samba houses, Carioca da Gema and Rio Scenarium stand out as a must-visit spot for anyone seeking an unforgettable night of live music and dancing.

Arnaldo Quintela Street

- Arnaldo Quintela, Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- ♠ Arnaldo Quintela Street in Botafogo has become a hotspot, filled with a mix of cafés, restaurants, and bars. In the area, you'll find Quartinho, a cozy bar perfect for sipping drinks in a relaxed setting, and Sult, known for its natural wines and delicious, carefully crafted food, offering a modern take on comfort dishes.

Coffee Shops

Confeitaria Colombo

- Rua Gonçalves Dias, 32 Centro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- A historic café from 1894, famous for its elegant architecture and traditional Brazilian pastries, reflecting Rio's Belle Époque charm.

Slow Bakery

- Rua Bambina, 131 Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro. RJ
- ♠ A cozy spot in Botafogo, known for artisanal breads, fresh pastries, and a laid-back atmosphere.

Empório Jardim

- Rua Jardim Botânico, 630 Jardim Botânico, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- ♠ A relaxed café in Jardim Botânico, offering seasonal dishes, delicious brunch options, and outdoor seating.

Arp

- Rua Francisco Otaviano, 70 Arpoador, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- ♠ A beachfront brunch spot in Arpoador, featuring fresh dishes and stunning ocean views.



São Paulo

About São Paulo

São Paulo, Brazil's largest city and financial hub, is a dynamic metropolis that blends modernity, history, and cultural diversity.

Known as the "Land of Drizzle" for its unpredictable weather, São Paulo boasts a rich history as a center of coffee exports and industrial development, which laid the foundation for its growth into a global economic powerhouse.

The city is a melting pot of cultures, with strong Italian, Japanese, and Arab influences that shape its gastronomy, neighborhoods, and festivals.

São Paulo's vibrant cultural scene is reflected in world-class institutions like the São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP), the Municipal Theater, and Ibirapuera Park, as well as its thriving nightlife and bustling markets.

For travelers coming from Brasília, the fastest and most convenient way to reach São Paulo is by plane. Direct flights between the two cities take approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes, making it easy to explore São Paulo's endless attractions, from its towering skyscrapers and vibrant street art to its iconic food scene.

A visit to São Paulo is a dive into the energy, innovation, and cultural richness of Brazil's largest city.





Fun Facts About São Paulo

The City of 24-Hour Restaurants

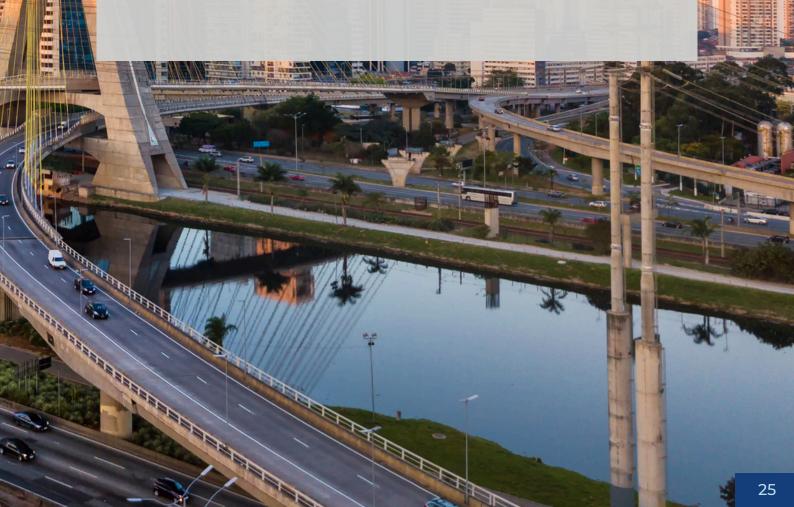
São Paulo takes food seriously, and many restaurants stay open 24/7 — whether you're craving sushi at 3 a.m. or an authentic pizza at sunrise.

The Largest Japanese Community Outside Japan

São Paulo is home to the largest population of Japanese people outside Japan! Little Japan (Liberdade neighborhood) is packed with authentic restaurants, markets, and cultural celebrations.

São Paulo's Street Art Culture

São Paulo's street art culture is world-famous, with murals adorning entire buildings. You can even find the iconic Beco do Batman (Batman Alley) in Vila Madalena, where the walls are covered with incredible, colorful graffiti.



Tourism

São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP)

MASP is one of Brazil's most renowned museums, famous for its diverse collection and iconic suspended building on Paulista Avenue. Featuring works by artists like Van Gogh and Portinari, it is a must-visit for art lovers

Museum of Modern Art (MAM)

Located in Ibirapuera Park, MAM is a vibrant hub for contemporary and modern art. Its innovative exhibitions and sculpture garden designed by Burle Marx are highlights for visitors.

Banco do Brasil Cultural Center (CCBB)

The CCBB in São Paulo is a dynamic cultural space hosting exhibitions, theater performances, and film screenings. Housed in a historic building in the city center, it blends art, history, and architecture in one place.

Ipiranga Museum

The Ipiranga Museum, located in Independence Park, is a historic landmark celebrating Brazil's independence. Recently restored, it features modern and interactive exhibitions, as well as beautiful surrounding gardens.

São Paulo Municipal Theater

A stunning landmark in São Paulo, this theater blends architectural grandeur with cultural significance. Opened in 1911, it features opera, ballet, and concerts, offering a vibrant showcase of Brazil's artistic heritage. Its ornate design and rich history make it a must-visit for culture enthusiasts.





Restaurants / Bars

Tordesilhas

- Rua Bela Cintra, 465 Consolação, São Paulo. SP
- This restaurant specializes in authentic Brazilian cuisine, offering traditional dishes with a contemporary twist.

Dom

- Rua Barão de Capanema, 549 Jardins, São Paulo, SP
- ♠ A two-Michelin-starred restaurant led by renowned chef Alex Atala. The menu combines native ingredients from the Amazon with innovative techniques, creating an unparalleled fine dining experience.

Maní

- Rua Joaquim Antunes, 210 Pinheiros, São Paulo, SP
- ▶ Known for its creative and modern Brazilian cuisine, Maní is a two-Michelinstarred gem. The restaurant features beautifully plated dishes that highlight seasonal and local flavors with a touch of artistry.

SubAstor (Speakeasy)

- Rua Delfina, 163 Vila Madalena, São Paulo,
 SP
- A hidden cocktail bar located beneath the lively Astor bar, SubAstor offers an intimate speakeasy vibe. With expertly crafted cocktails, unique recipes, and a chic atmosphere, it's perfect for a night out with a touch of exclusivity.

Picco (Pizza & Drinks)

- Rua dos Pinheiros, 267 Pinheiros, São Paulo, SP
- This trendy spot combines delicious woodfired pizzas with a vibrant cocktail menu. With its relaxed atmosphere, live music, and creative drink options, Picco is an ideal choice for a casual evening with friends.

Churrascaria Barbacoa

- Rua Dr. Renato Paes de Barros, 65 Itaim Bibi, São Paulo, SP
- This one 's for barbecue lovers. This steakhouse promises a wide variety of meats, combining quality and flavor in every bite.

A Casa do Porco (Bar)

- Rua Araújo, 124 República, São Paulo, SP.
- A great option for pork lovers. Here, pork takes center stage, served in a variety of creative and delicious ways.



Coffee Shops

Futuro Refeitório

- Rua Cônego Eugênio Leite, 808 -Pinheiros, São Paulo, SP
- This modern café blends sustainability and innovation with an industrial-chic design. Known for its freshly brewed coffee, artisanal bread, and creative dishes, it's a favorite spot for those seeking a cozy yet trendy atmosphere to relax or work.

CoffeeLab

- Rua Fradique Coutinho, 1340 Vila Madalena, São Paulo, SP
- ♠ A coffee lover's paradise, CoffeeLab offers a unique sensory experience where visitors can learn about coffee preparation techniques. Renowned for its focus on quality and innovation, it's an excellent destination for trying expertly brewed Brazilian coffee in a creative space.



MAPS & OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION



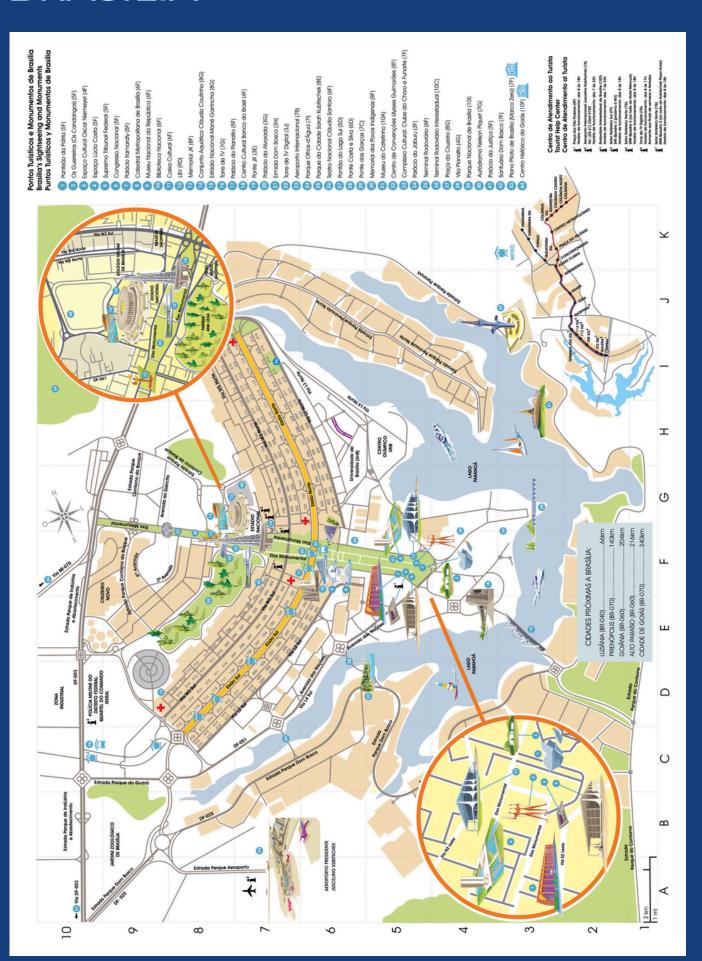


MAP OF CAMPUS DARCY RIBEIRO





MAP OF BRASÍLIA





MAP OF BRAZIL



USEFUL LINKS

Travel Guides

- <u>Lonely Planet Brazil</u>
- Lonely Planet Brazil (Travel Guide) 10th Edition (2016)
- National Geographic Traveler: Brazil
- Rough Guides Brazil

Getting around

- Map of UnB Campuses
- Moovit (transport trip planner)
- Brasília Metro Map
- Buser (intercity trips)



