

BRAZIL

for travelers

para viajantes

BRASIL



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H Instituto de
Hospitalidade



Ministério
do Turismo

- 
- 4 Brazil for travelers *Brasil para viajantes*
- 6 Sustainable Tourism in Brazil *Turismo sustentable en Brasil*
- 7 About Brazil *Conocendo Brasil*
- 8 Brazil regions *Regiones de Brasil*
- 9 Prehistoric Brazil *Brasil Prehistorico*
- 10 Colonial and Imperial Brazil *Brasil Colonia e Imperio*
- 11 Culture *Cultura*
- 12 Gastronomy *Gastronomia*
- 13 Events *Eventos*
- 14 Fauna *fauna*
- 15 Flora *flora*
- 16 Conservation Areas *Areas de Conservaciónes*
- 17 Amazon Rainforest *Floresta Amazónica*
- 20 Cerrado *Cerrado*
- 23 Wetlands *Pantanal*
- 26 Caatinga *Caatinga*
- 29 Atlantic Rainforest *Mata Atlantica*
- 32 Pampas *pampas*
- 33 Coast *litoral*
- 36 Adventure *Aventura*
- 38 Pratical Guide *Guía Practico*
- 40 Business Book *Caderno de empresas*

BRAZIL for travelers **BRASIL** *para viajantes*



Breathtaking landscapes, an excellent climate, high biodiversity, wonderful people, a rich culture and a fascinating history... this is BRASIL ! Brazil has so many wonderful places to visit and dimensions to explore that it is often difficult to know where to go and what to do there. We would like to help you a little with that.

This publication (and an accompanying website) is part of a larger effort to invest in the quality and sustainability of the Brazil tourism product: **Brazil Sustainable Tourism Certification Program**.

The Brazil Sustainable Tourism Certification Program is led by the NGO **Instituto de Hospitalidade** and supported by the Brazilian Export Promotion Agency (**APEX-Brazil**) and Multilateral Investment Fund (**MIF**) of the Inter American Development Bank (**IADB**). It also receives institutional support from the main stakeholders in tourism in Brazil. The Brazilian Sustainable Tourism Council (**CBTS**) is a partner. You can read more on Sustainable Tourism in Brazil and our Program in the next section

This catalog is directed at tour operators and independent travelers, but it does not pretend to be a detailed guide of Brazil. Its aim is to be a guiding light to discover the many dimensions of

Brazil and get your imagination going. From there you can go for more detailed information to our website: www.sustainabletourismbrazil.org, which is updated regularly and provides further links for planning your trip and learning about Brazil.

Our catalog has the following components:

- *themed maps of Brazil*
 - *introduction to Brazil with an overview of history and culture, nature and adventure*
 - *listing of tourism suppliers that have committed to Sustainable Tourism principles and are working to implement our standards are also listed in this catalog.*
- At the moment none of the suppliers listed is certified.**

Brazil is a wonderful country and a great place to visit. With the Sustainable Tourism Certification Program it hopes to stay that way for all the generations to come.

Welcome to Brazil and Travel Lightly!

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Travelers search for that special paradise, where time seems to stand still. Investors look for great locations, where they can offer an unique experience to tourists and make money. Governments see tourism as a “clean” industry, which can help economic development and generate jobs.

Many of Brazil's special destinations and tourism products are still relatively unknown in international tourism markets. We need to work hard to conserve these remaining paradises. Examples from all over the world show that tourism can have negative environmental and socio-cultural impacts.

The Sustainable Tourism Certification Program for Brazil is an initiative led by the Instituto de Hospitalidade, in partnership with the Brazilian Council for Sustainable Tourism and other stakeholders. It aims to contribute to the quest for achieving development that meets the needs of the present generation, without compromising the needs of future generations. Sustainable development also needs to be taken into account in the planning and management of tourism.

We have started out by drawing up Sustainable Tourism Standards for accommodation and are working with entrepreneurs, NGOs

and government to actively promote their implementation. The Program provides technical assistance and promotes those businesses that are working to adopt the standards.

You can help by preferring tourism providers and destinations in Brazil that are working with us, by telling your friends about this initiative and by being aware of sustainable tourism practices and making an effort to “travel light”.

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Brazil Sustainable Tourism Principles

Principios del turismo sustentable en Brasil

The following Principles of the Brazilian Sustainable Tourism Council (CBTS) constitute the national reference for our Sustainable Tourism Standards. *The following Principles of the Brazilian Sustainable Tourism Council (CBTS) constitute the national reference for our Sustainable Tourism Standards.*

- I Respect the legislation in force | *Respect the legislation in force*
- II Guarantee the rights of local populations | *Guarantee the rights of local populations*
- III Conserve the natural environment and its biodiversity | *Conserve the natural environment and its biodiversity*
- IV Consider the cultural heritage and local values | *Consider the cultural heritage and local values*
- V Stimulate the social and economic development of tourist destinations | *Consider the cultural heritage and local values*
- VI Guarantee the quality of the products, processes and attitudes | *Guarantee the quality of the products, processes and attitudes*
- VII Establish responsible planning and management | *Establish responsible planning and management*

About Brazil Conocendo Brazil

For those who like the nuts and bolts of a country, here are some basic facts you should know about Brazil:

1) Brazil is very, very, big: **8,547,403 square kilometers**. The fifth largest country in the world. To fly from Porto Alegre in the South to Boa Vista in the northern Amazon, you will take 9 hours (New York to Paris is only 8 hours).

2) The **population** of Brazil is over **178 million**. It is a lot in number of people (5th largest), but not a lot in terms of population density (at 21 people per square km, Brazil only ranks number 187).

3) **Brasilia** has been the **capital** since 1960 (before that Rio de Janeiro and before that Salvador de Bahia).

4) Language: **Brazilian Portuguese**

5) Type of Government: **Federal Republic** with democratically elected President and Congress every 4 years (next election in 2006).

6) Current **President** : **Luis Inácio Lula da Silva**

7) Brazil is divided in **one federal district (Brasilia) and 26 states**. Governors and state assembly's elections are held in the same year as presidential elections (next election 2006).

8) There are **5.561 municipalities** (IBGE, 2000) in Brazil, including 31 cities with over 500.000 inhabitants. Mayors and municipal assemblies are also elected every 4

year (next election for municipalities in 2004).

9) Brazilian **GDP** is US\$ 452 billion (2002 current). In 2001, GDP per capita (purchasing power parity - PPP) was US\$ 7.360.

10) Brazilian **exports** in 2002 were about US\$ 60 billion (ranked 28). Brazil exports a wide range of products from sophisticated technology (airplanes) to agriculture (coffee, soy, fruits, sugar and meat).

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Brazilian Dimensions / Dimensiones brasileñas		
Population / <i>populación</i>	178 million	178 million
Area / <i>Area</i>	8,5 million sq Km	8,5 million sq Km
Federal Conservation Units Protect / <i>Proyectos de Unidades de Conservación Federales</i>	> 6% of the country	> 6% of the country
National Parks / <i>Parques nacionales</i>	> 50	> 50
Private Reserves (RPPN) / <i>Reservas Particulares</i>	> 350	> 350
Main Ecosystems / <i>Ecosistemas principales</i>	Rainforest (Amazon and Atlantic), Bush Savannah, Wetlands, Scrub Desert, Pampas	Rainforest (Amazon and Atlantic), Bush Savannah, Wetlands, Scrub Desert, Pampas
Biodiversity (species) / <i>Biobiodiversidad (Especies)</i>	> 1700 birds, > 500 mammals	> 1700 birds, > 500 mammals
Conservation International Hotspots / <i>Conservaciones internacionales especial</i>	Atlantic Rainforest, Bush Savannah	Atlantic Rainforest, Bush Savannah
World Heritage Sites / <i>Sitios de patrimonio mundiales</i>	18	18
Beaches / <i>Playas</i>	> 2000 (more than 7000 Km)	> 2000 (more than 7000 Km)
Ecotourism destination / <i>Destinos de ecoturimo</i>	> 100	> 100

Brazil regions *Regiones de Brasil*

North *Norte*

This region includes most of the magnificent Amazon. The region is sparsely populated and most people live in the major cities like Manaus and Belém. Its many rivers are important modes of transports.

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Centre-West *Centro-oeste*

Three ecosystems, Pantanal, Cerrado and Amazon rainforest (southern), meet here in the heart of Brazil, where the frontier spirit is still strong. Brazil's capital Brasilia is found on the central plateau.

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South *Sur*

Subtropical Brazil has distinct European overtones and is home of the magnificent Iguacu Falls, the Lagamar estuary, great canyons, old Jesuit missions and good wines.

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Northeast *Nordeste*

Fascinating colonial history, beautiful beaches and ancient backlands, rich folklore and lots of sun.

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Southeast *Sudeste*

The economic powerhouse of Brazil. This is where you find the mega-cities of São Paulo and Rio and some of the most important remnants of Atlantic Rainforest. The historic Estrada Real links the interior (Baroque Minas) to the coast (Serra do Mar).

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Prehistoric Brazil



Brasil Prehistorico



As part of the New World, Brazil is often seen as a young country. But the history of Brazil goes back a long, long time before its "discovery" in 1500. The many important geological events of the South American continent have shaped Brazil's breathtaking landscapes and diverse ecosystems. Research into Brazil's prehistoric past is still limited, but what is being discovered offers some tantalizing glimpses into a lost world.

At the last census (1998) of the Brazilian Institute for National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) more than 12,000 archeological sites were identified all over Brazil. Recent estimates put this number at more than 20 thousand. These sites include rock paintings and carvings, fossil beds, caves, dinosaur tracks, dinosaur and megafauna fossil sites, Indian burial grounds and artifact finds.

Some important sites are already well equipped to receive visitors : the Serra de Capivara and Sete Cidades National Parks in Piaui, the dinosaur tracks and fossil site at Souza (Paraiba) and the rock painting and megafauna fossil site Lajedo de Soledade (Rio Grande do Norte).

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Colonial and Imperial Brazil



Brasil Colonia e Imperio



The history of Brazil is linked to the control of its riches. Brazil is named after its first export product, a tree which yielded a beautiful red-purple dye and quality wood for cabinetmaking and violin bows: the Brazil wood. At the end of the 16th century the planting of sugar cane started a new economic cycle in the North East and attracted Dutch invaders. One century later finds of gold and diamonds in Minas, started a push towards the interior and attracted pirates on the coast. Another cycle was started with cocoa and coffee plantations. The establishment of the Portuguese court in Rio de Janeiro and the – short-lived - Brazilian empire brought with a investment in culture and city architecture.

Today, charming colonial towns, impressive forts, large palaces, impressive country estates, baroque churches, old cobblestone routes, museums and shipwrecked galleons bear witness to Brazil's rich colonial and imperial heritage.

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Culture



Cultura



The Brazilian people find their roots on four continents: Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia. Indian and African tribes, Portuguese, French and Dutch adventurers, European, Asian and American migrants have created a unique ethnic mix and a rich cultural tapestry.

From the mapinguari (a legendary monster that roams the Amazon) to candomblé, from bumba-meu-boi to capoeira, from maracatu to bossa nova, from Villa-Lobos to manguê beat, from Kuarup to June parties, Brazilian culture is a moving feast of traditions, beliefs, dances, celebrations, arts, crafts and music from diverse origins.

In recent years Brazil has been working hard to value, restore and promote local culture and historic heritage. Both government and private enterprise sponsor many cultural manifestations such as handicrafts, dance, music and cinema. And these efforts are starting to bear fruits ... in Brazil and also abroad.

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Gastronomy

Brazil has a very eclectic cuisine, inspired by cooking traditions of indigenous peoples, Africans, Europeans and Asians. Ingredients from all over the world have found new partners in Brazilian fruits, spices and fish and Brazilian cooking offers new delights for all kinds of tastes.

Interestingly, the national cuisine of Brazil is more a collection of unique regional ones. Though in all regions you can usually find the basic Brazilian fare on the menu, the real adventure is discovering the unique flavors of each region.

North

The Indian influences on Brazilian cooking have best been preserved in the Amazon. Fish, fruits, nuts and roots are the basic ingredients.

Northeast

This is a hot cuisine, dominated by sun and sea and, especially in Bahia, you find African recipes with new ingredients. And centuries of sugarcane production have resulted in many sweet solutions for dessert.

Centre-West

In this region of wide open spaces with big rivers and occupied by migrants from other parts of Brazil, you will find dishes adapted from other regions of Brazil.

Southeast

In the southeast, a large population from many origins, means a great diversity of dishes from all regions of Brazil and the world.

South

The south is the birthplace of the churrasco (barbecue), a gaucho tradition that has spread all over Brazil. But you will also find dishes that preserve European cooking traditions.



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Events

Brazilians love to celebrate and go out, so chances are very good that you will be able to be part of the fun. Brazilian artists and groups are often on tour in the country and international artists frequently visit. Major cities usually have a good cultural program of music, dance and exhibitions. Beside is a basic monthly calendar for some major happenings in Brazil. But check our website

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Eventos



January	The summer holiday month. Many parties and shows on beaches. Religious events celebrate the New Year and the Epiphany.
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February (or March)	Carnaval Time ! Go to the big parade in Rio de Janeiro or participate in the street celebrations (Olinda, Recife and Salvador).
<i>February (or March)</i>	<i>Carnaval Time ! Go to the big parade in Rio de Janeiro or participate in the street celebrations (Olinda, Recife and Salvador).</i>
March (or April)	The week before Easter is Holy Week and there are many beautiful celebrations, especially in colonial towns.
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May	The Divine Holy Spirit is celebrated during a ten-day festival in many places. Piréropolis (GO), Paraty (RJ) and Alcantara (MA) are three places that organize imaginative processions and pageants.
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June	June (country bumpkin) parties all over Brazil. Campina Grande (PB) and Caruaru (PE) compete for the "biggest" party of all. In the North the Bumba-meu-Boi pageant reigns (São Luis, Parintins)
<i>June</i>	<i>June (country bumpkin) parties all over Brazil. Campina Grande (PB) and Caruaru (PE) compete for the "biggest" party of all. In the North the Bumba-meu-Boi pageant reigns (São Luis, Parintins)</i>
July	In the winter holiday month there several cultural events
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August	The best cowboys of Brazil compete in the Barretos Rodeo. Gramado (RS) holds its yearly Film Festival
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October	An Oktoberfest in Blumenau (SC) and the famous Círio de Nazaré Procession Festival in Belém
<i>October</i>	<i>An Oktoberfest in Blumenau (SC) and the famous Círio de Nazaré Procession Festival in Belém</i>
November	The shrine of Padre Cícero in Juazeiro do Norte (CE) attracts an impressive pilgrimage.
<i>November</i>	<i>The shrine of Padre Cícero in Juazeiro do Norte (CE) attracts an impressive pilgrimage.</i>
December	Christmas in the tropics. Reveillon is celebrated on the beaches.
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Fauna

Brazil has the highest number of both terrestrial vertebrates and invertebrates of any country in the world and new species continue to be discovered. Its fauna is not yet as well known as that of other regions in the world.

The present day mammal fauna of Brazil is a mixture of the descendants of ancient inhabitants (anteaters, sloths, armadillos and marsupials), early migrants (monkeys, cavy-like rodents) and relative newcomers (carnivores, hoofed animals and rodents) The last group descended from North America with the closing of the Panama land bridge about 4 million years ago.

Brazil's big terrestrial mammals include jaguar, puma, tapir, giant anteater, deer, capybara, giant river otter and giant armadillo. Brazil is also especially rich in monkey species.

Brazil is, of course, a superb country for birdwatching. There are more than 1700 recorded species including about 200 endemics. Birds range from the majestic harpy eagle to small hummingbirds. There are the colourful parrots, toucans, tanagers, manakins, trogons, icterids and cotingas. Or meet the primitive hoatzin, the noisy screamers, large storks and herons, graceful ibises and ghostly



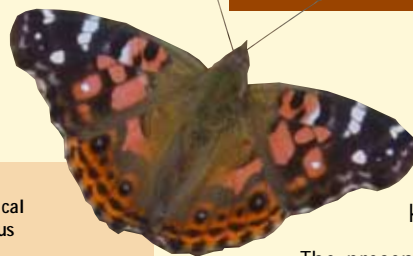
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	Total	Endemic Unique to Brazil	At Risk	Critical Status
Mammals	524	131	71	18
Birds*	1714	> 191	103	26
Reptiles	468	172	15	6
Amphibians	516	294	?	5
Fish	> 3000	?	12	?

* some sources put this number lower Source : Ministry of Environment



Flora

B Brazil is a paradise for plant lovers and botanists. Its magnificent trees, beautiful flowers, fascinating epiphytes and enormous variations in edible fruits and nuts can enchant even those who are not interested in plants.

The Brazilian flora is rich in ornamentals such as orchids, bromeliads, palms and cacti. Majestic Kapok trees, statuesque Mulattowood, prized Jacaranda and Brazilwood, the curious Cannonball tree and the tall Jequitiba will call your attention. Fruits and nuts include açai, cashew, cocoa, cupuaçu, pequi, brazil nut, jaboticaba, guave, guaraná .. and you can taste most of them in the form of juice or ice-cream. Many plants also have medicinal uses and oils, herbal extracts and dried leaves and roots are sold in many markets.

For those who have little time or want to know more about Brazilian flora, it is good to know that the larger cities of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba, São Paulo, Brasília and Manaus all have botanical gardens. There are also possibilities to visit private reserves and gardens owned by specialists, like Orquidário Kautsky in Domingos Martins (ES), Sitio Burle Marx near Rio de Janeiro, Sitio Bacchus (orchids) near Nova Friburgo.

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Flora



Conservation Areas



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- Pampas *pampas*
- Coast *litoral*

Brazil has an extensive system of national parks and other types of conservation areas, which includes National Parks, National Forests, Extractive Reserves, Sustainable Development Reserves, Biological Reserves, Environmental Protection Areas and Private Reserves. Nine areas have been declared World Heritage Sites.

Brazil's 52 National Parks alone already sum 17 million hectares of land (the equivalent of four Denmarks). These Parks protect magnificent rainforests and savannas, fragile watersheds and coastal/marine environments, striking landscapes, intriguing pre-historic sites and, of course, many endangered species of flora and fauna.

Some of Brazil's most easily accessible parks are Itatiaia, Serra dos Orgãos, Foz de Iguaçu (Atlantic Rainforest), Chapada dos Veadeiros, dos Guimarães e da Diamantina (Cerrado), Sete Cidades and Serra da Capivara (Caatinga), Lençóis Maranhenses, Abrolhos and Fernando de Noronha (Coast/Marine).

There are also specific projects to protect fauna, such as Golden Lion Tamarin, Sea Turtles, Manatees, Whales and Dolphins and Carnivores projects.

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Amazon Rainforest



The mythical Amazon can only be described in superlatives. It covers an area of 5 million square kilometers of which 80% is on Brazilian territory. It is the largest and most intact rainforest region in the world. Through it flows an extensive drainage system of more than a thousand rivers, which account for 20% of the world's fresh surface water. The rainforest is thought to hold 30% of the world biodiversity (especially plants and insects) and an estimated 50% of its species are still to be identified by science.

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Brazilian Amazon Factsheet / *Amazonia Brasileira*

Approximate area	Approximate area	4 million sq km
Average Annual Rainfall	Average Annual Rainfall	1500 - 3250 mm
Average Annual Temperature	Average Annual Temperature	22 - 26 °C
Plant Species	Plant Species	> 30.000
Fish Species	Fish Species	> 2.000
Reptile species	Reptile species	> 250
Amphibian species	Amphibian species	> 300
Mammal species	Mammal species	> 300
Bird species	Bird species	> 1.000



1. Amazon Fruits / Frutas de la Amazonia



Butia's Forest / Floresta de Butias

Floresta Amazónica

The Largest Rainforest in the World
La Mayor Floresta Equatorial del Mundo



Visiting the Amazon

For the superficial observer, the Amazon will impress more by its vastness (lots of water and lots of green), than its variety. Most of the details (animals, birds, flowers, fruits and insects) are high up in the trees, hiding in the undergrowth or below the water and not always easy to see. A good guide and a bit of patience are essential to bring the visitor in touch with these hidden secrets.

Close to the big cities most of the primary forest is gone, and one must venture further to see the original Amazon. This can be done by staying in a variety of jungle hotels, taking boat cruises or doing a canoe/hammock expedition. Visits to Indian Reservations need special permissions. There are also community ecotourism projects for those who want to get a real feel of life in the Amazon.

The most popular gateways to the Amazon are Manaus, in the centre of the Amazon basin and Belém at the mouth of the great river. Those who want to take the road less traveled should consider Porto Velho (Rondonia), Cuiabá (Mato Grosso) and Palmas (Tocantins) as their points of departure for adventure.



Vitórias Régias / Victorias Régias

Visitando Amazonia

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Cerrado



The heartland of Brazil, covers an area equal to Western Europe (2 million sq km) and its original ecosystem is the “cerrado”. Thought to be one of the South American continent’s more ancient ecosystems, it has crucial links to Brazil’s two great rainforests. Most of Brazil’s big rivers find their source here. Considering its antiquity, watershed function and interaction with the rainforest, it is no surprise that the Brazilian “cerrado” is considered the richest savanna in the world because of its high plant diversity and endemism.

For a long time the heartland was seen as an “empty quarter”, but not only is it an area of enormous ecological importance, it also has many areas of spectacular scenic beauty. It is also a key habitat for Brazil’s large mammals.

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Cerrado Shortsheet / *Cerrado Shortsheet*

Approximate original area	Approximate original area	2.000.000 sq km
Average Annual Rainfall	Average Annual Rainfall	1000 - 2000 mm
Average Annual Temperature	Average Annual Temperature	20 - 24 °C
Fish species	Fish species	185
Reptiles	Reptiles	120
Amphibians	Amphibians	150
Mammals	Mammals	161
Birds	Birds	837
Vascular Plants	Vascular Plants	10.000 (44% endemics)

Source : IBAMA, Conservation International



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3

Cerrado

The Magical Brazilian Heartland
El Corazón Mágico del Brasil

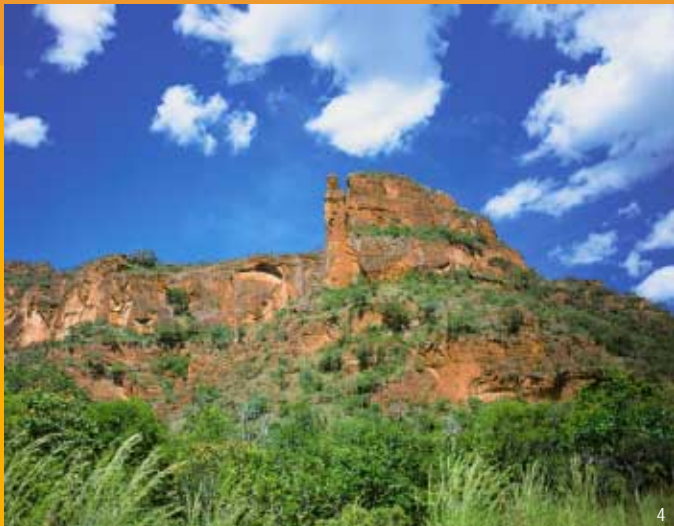


Visiting the Cerrado

The cerrado is a great place for the active traveler with many opportunities for hiking, rafting and canoeing, vertical sports and caving.

There are many great “cerrado” destinations in Brazil. Justly famous are the Chapadas: Diamantina in Bahia, dos Veadeiros in Goiás and dos Guimarães in Mato Grosso. Be impressed by their towering escarpments and cliffs, high waterfalls and vast rolling landscapes. Delight at the varied vegetation: beautiful “veredas” (flooded grassy areas with elegant winepalms), cool natural pools, gardens of many colored wildflowers and orchards of knotty small trees, bearing strange fruits. And there is of course the varied wildlife.

Principal gateways to the cerrado are Brasília, Belo Horizonte, Cuiabá and Salvador.



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Wetlands



Embratur | Rachid Waqued Neto



In the centre of the South American continent lays the largest inland delta in the world: the Pantanal. The origins of these floodplains probably go back to the time when there was a great inland sea in the South American continent. Today, life in the Pantanal follows a yearly cycle of rising and falling waters, dictated by the rains and the course of the great Paraguay river and its many meandering tributaries. The diversity of vegetation, the rich soil and the abundance of water attract and sustain an enormous variety and abundance of wildlife. Most of the wildlife is also encountered in other parts of Brazil, but nowhere are they as easily seen as in the Pantanal.

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Pantanal in Numbers / Pantanal in Numbers

Total area	Total area	240.000 km ²
In Brazil	In Brazil	140.000 km ² (twice the size of Ireland/duas vezes el tamanho Ireland)
Mammals	Mammals	> 100 species/especies
Birds	Birds	> 650 species/especies
Reptiles	Reptiles	> 177 species/especies
Fish	Fish	> 250 species/especies
Cattle	Cattle	+/- 6 million heads/ millones de cabezas



Pantanal

The Flooded Outback
La Zona Rural Pantanosa



Visiting the Pantanal

The Pantanal is a must visit destination for nature lovers, who will find a spectacular wilderness area where they will be received with old time hospitality.

From here one can transfer to the many farm hotels, which offer full board plus tours (on horseback, open vehicle, boat and on foot). Some operators offer safaris on horseback or by 4 wheel drive that will take you from farm to farm.

The three gateways are Campo Grande (which is also the gateway to adventure destination Bonito), Corumbá and Cuiabá (which is also a gateway to the Cerrado and Amazon).



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Caatinga



Caa-tinga is the Tupi Indian name for the typical vegetation of the arid backlands of the North East of Brazil. In the prolonged dry season, most of the thorny bushes, scrubs and contorted trees of the caatinga lose their leaves and you see a thicket of dull grey-white trunks and twigs. But it only needs to rain and streams start to flow, pools fill up and suddenly the whole caatinga becomes a delicate green tapestry.

This is an ancient country and you find traces of the distant past everywhere: rock paintings and rock inscriptions, dinosaur and prehistoric mega-fauna fossil sites abound. Long a hide-out for bandits, rebels and visionaries, the caatinga also earns a reputation as a mystical badlands.

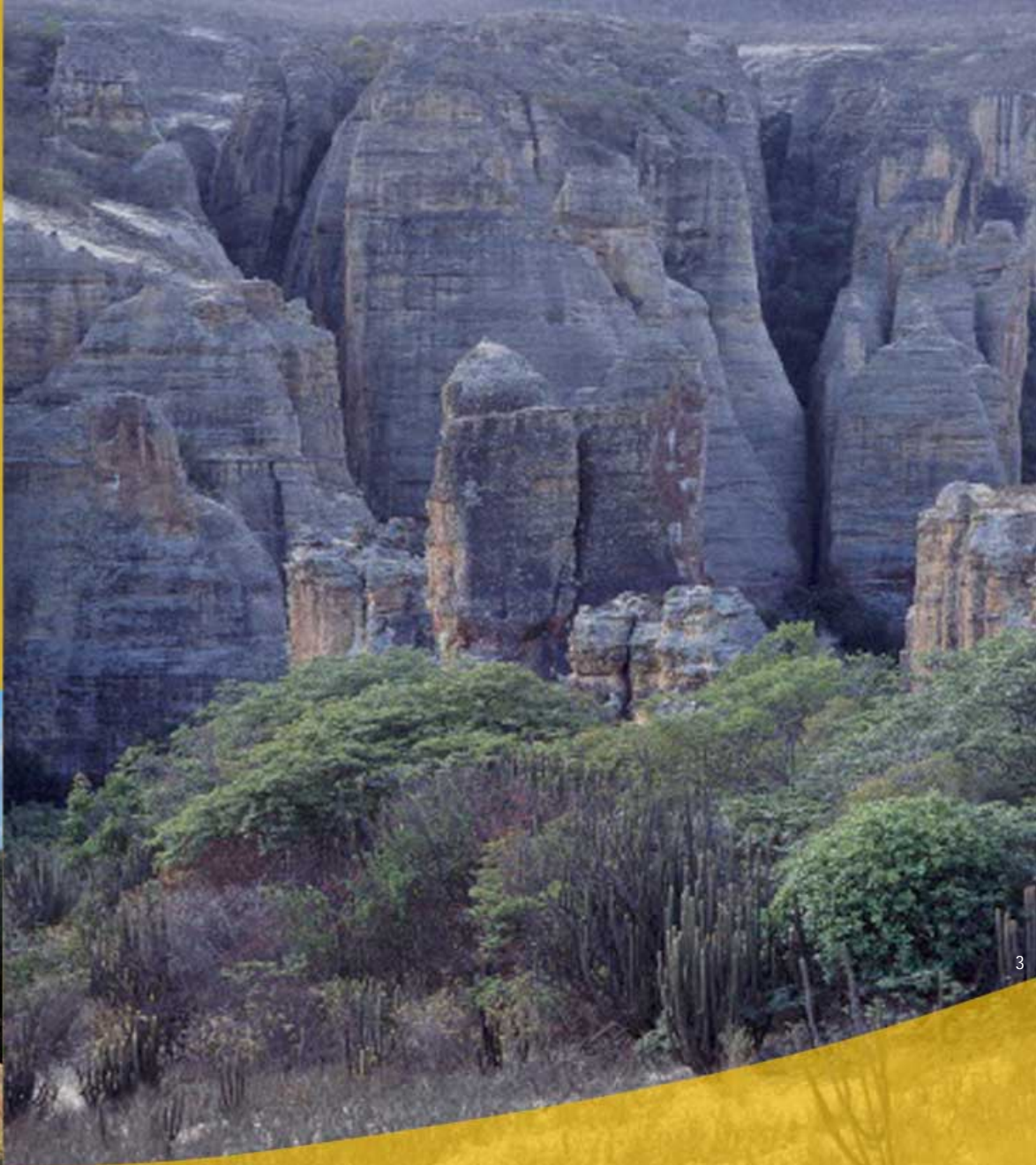
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Caatinga Shortsheet / *Caatinga Shortsheet*

Approximate original area	Approximate original area	900.000 sq km
Average Annual Rainfall	Average Annual Rainfall	300 - 1000 mm (with great variations per year)
Average Annual Temperature	Average Annual Temperature	24 - 26 °C
Fish species	Fish species	185
Reptiles	Reptiles	107
Amphibians	Amphibians	49
Mammals	Mammals	80
Birds	Birds	350
Vascular Plants	Vascular Plants	1.200 (44% endemics)

Source : IBAMA, Conservation International



Caatinga

Ancient Badlands of Northeastern Brazil
Las Antiguas Tierras del Nordeste del Brasil



Visiting the Caatinga

Despite its forbidding aspect, the caatinga is a fascinating place to visit for its flora and fauna, striking landscapes and unique geological formations, important archeological sites and its importance in Brazilian history and culture. Also some of the most interesting sites of can be visited in short 1 to 3 day trips from the northeastern coast.

The impressive National Park of Sete Cidades is close to the beautiful Parnaíba Delta, the geological formations of mystical Cariri are within a day from João Pessoa. The more adventurous could visit the site of the "War at the End of the World" in Canudos from gateways Salvador and Aracaju or visit the famous dinosaur tracks at Souza from Natal or João Pessoa.



3



4

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Atlantic Rainforest



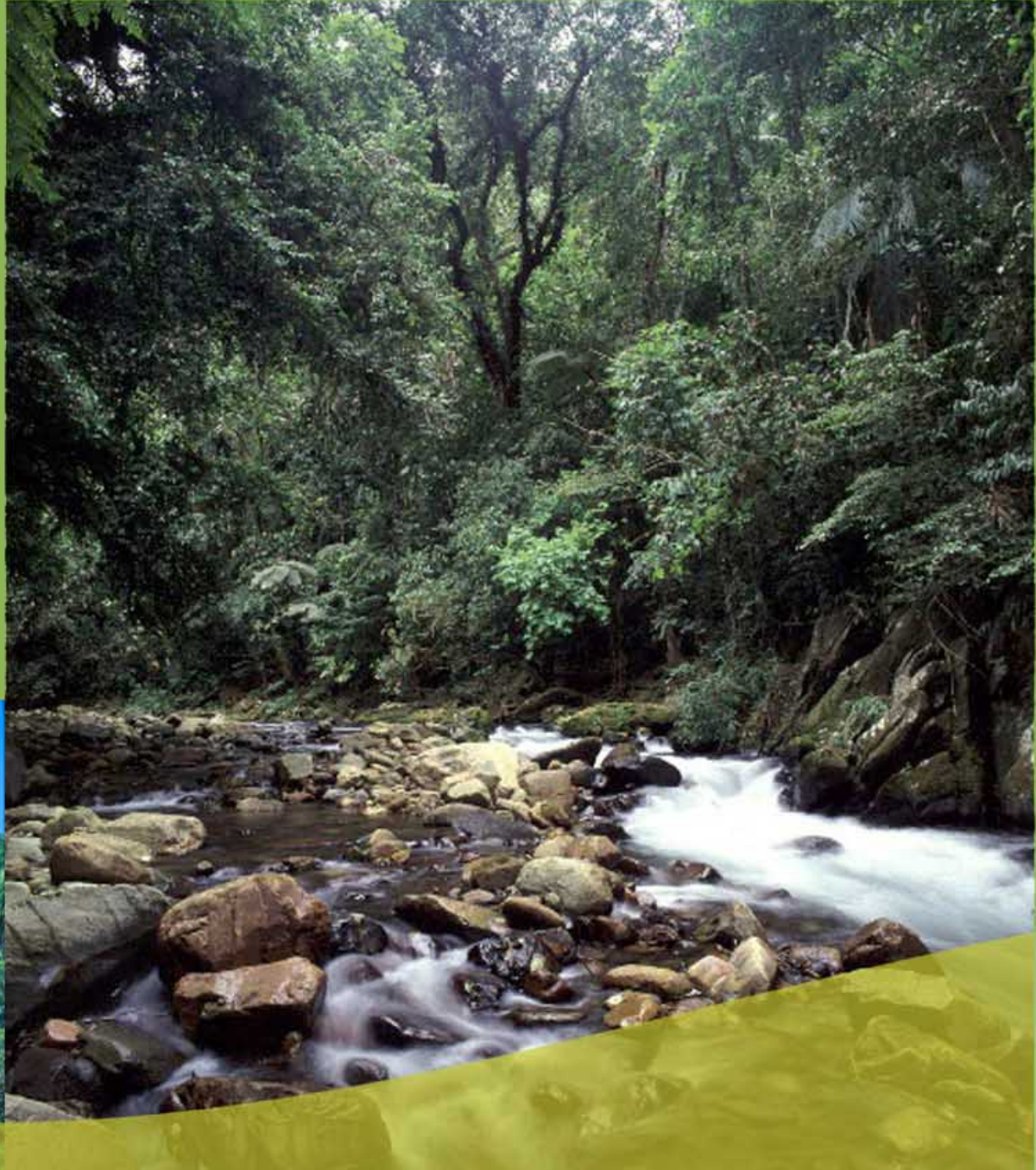
The Atlantic Forest is one of the most threatened rainforests in the world. Once it stretched all along the Brazilian coast occupying an area of about 1.1 million square kilometers. Sadly, five centuries of colonization have taken their toll and less than 10% of this great forest remains. Even today, the still impressive remnants of forest attest to its past glory and some still rival the Amazon in biological diversity and surpass it in beauty. And they are the last stronghold for some of the world's rarest species.

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Atlantic Forest Factsheet / *Atlantic Forest Factsheet*

Approximate original area	Approximate original area	1.100.000 sq km
Average Annual	Average Annual	1500 - 3000 mm
Rainfall	Rainfall	Rainfall
Average Annual	Average Annual	14 - 21 °C
Temperature	Temperature	
Reptiles	Reptiles	> 190
Amphibians	Amphibians	> 280
Mammals	Mammals	> 200
Birds	Birds	> 650
Vascular Plants	Vascular Plants	20.000 (40% endemics)

Source : Environment Ministry, Conservation International



Atlantic Rainforest

The Forgotten Rainforest of Brazil
The Forgotten Rainforest of Brazil



Visiting the Atlantic Rainforest

The Atlantic Rainforest offers the visitor spectacular mountain scenery, beautiful mangrove-lined bays and exuberant forest full of hidden treasures like bridal veil waterfalls, a delicate orchid or the beautiful golden lion tamarin monkey.

Principal gateways for fascinating trips to the Atlantic Rainforest are Rio de Janeiro, (4 national parks within a 3 hours drive), Foz de Iguacu (much more than just a magnificent waterfall), Curitiba (Lagamar estuary), Porto Seguro and Ilheus (imposing tableland forest shades the cocoa groves).

There are so many nice properties to stay from where you can venture out into the rainforest. Birdwatchers will discover an enormous variety of birds, including endangered endemics. You can go back in time visiting colonial towns or country estates. For the adventurous, there are a myriad of activities like trekking, mountain-biking, rappel and canyoning, rafting and canoeing and horseback riding.

And... some of the best beaches of Brazil are close by.

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Pampas



Pampas



In the very south of Brazil, we find the Pampas, flowing open grassland plains interrupted by buttes and mesas. Along the coast, marshy grasslands and lagoons are important stopovers for migratory birds. Most of the Pampas have been developed for agriculture: the south is an important producer of soy, grain, rice, corn, wine, beef, pork and poultry. But there are important conservation areas where you can admire the Pampas in all its glory.

The main gateway to “gaucho” country is Porto Alegre, from where you can go inland to see the beautiful old Jesuits Missions, go north to the lovely wine-country and the magnificent canyons and araucaria forests or down to the coastal lagoons and wetlands (Taim Ecological Station, Lagoa do Peixe National Park, Lagoa dos Patos). There are many opportunities for adventure sports, including trail riding on Crioulo horses.

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Coast



With over 7000 km of coastline, Brazil has more than 2000 beaches. And there are beaches for all tastes: crowded beaches with lots of beautiful people and a vibrant nightlife, small deserted intimate coves surrounded by rainforest, beaches lined with waving coconut palms that stretch as far as the eye can see, beaches where you can swim with dolphins and turtles, beaches where you can snorkel the coral reefs, beaches where the sea is like a mirror, beaches with rolling waves for great surfing, and beaches lined with enormous sand dunes.

Where Brazil's rivers meet the sea, mangrove swamps are found. Impressive formations can still be found in the Lagamar area, the bay of Camamu, the Parnaiba Delta and around the mouth of the Amazon.

Coral reefs can be found in many places along the Brazilian coast. Many of the northeastern beaches have natural coral reef pools. The largest coral reef formation in the South Atlantic is Abrolhos National Marine Park (Bahia), which is also a nursery for humpback whales.

Some examples of great beaches ... but remember, there are many more special ones to discover

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Some examples of great beaches ... but remember, there are many more special ones to discover

Some great beaches / Algumas playas excelentes

Beach	Closest town	State	Type
Pequenos Lençóis	Paulino Neves	Maranhão	Deserted with dunes, mangroves, sand banks and shallows.
Jericoacoara	Jericoacoara	Ceará	Wide beach, dunes, lagoons and beautiful cliff formations
Ponto do Madeiro	Tibaú do Sul	Rio Grande do Norte	Large cove surrounded by rainforest on high cliff, gentle waves and visiting dolphins
Sancho, do Leão	Fernando de Noronha	Pernambuco	Diving, surfing and sea turtles on this magical island of volcanic origin
Carro Quebrado	Barra de Santo Antonio	Alagoas	Fine sand, coral reef pools and lined with waving coconut palms
Taipus de Fora	Maraú	Bahia	Enormous coral reef pool, wide beach with great waves and coconut palms as far as the eye can see.
Lopes Mendes	Ilha Grande	Rio de Janeiro	Rainforest meets big ocean beach on tropical island
Praia do Rosa	Imbituba	Santa Catarina	Surrounded by cliffs, a nursery for southern right whales



Coast

The beaches of your dreams
Las playas de sus sueños



Sailing and WindSurfing

From the primitive “jangadas” of the Northeast coast to Olympic champions, sailing is a national passion in Brazil. Top places for sailing and windsurfing are Rio Guiaba (Rio Grande do Sul), Florianopolis (Santa Catarina), Ilha Bela and Santos (São Paulo), Angra dos Reis and Buzios (Rio de Janeiro), Camburi (Espírito Santo) and the coasts of Bahia and Ceará.

You can see examples of traditional boats in Maranhão and the Northeast coast and at the National Sea Museum, São Francisco Island, Santa Catarina

Surf and Wakeboard

Surfing is big in Brazil and there are opportunities everywhere from the mouth of the Amazon, where you can take the “pororoca” to the very south of Brazil Florianopolis (Santa Catarina), which some consider the best place for surfing in Brazil, is a stop on the World Championship Tour.

Diving

With a long coastline, lots of reefs and shipwrecks, many caves and rivers, there are lots of places to dive and snorkel in Brazil. Even diving in the Amazon is starting to become popular! Some great places are Arabaianas Channel (Ceará), São Paulo Galleon, Fernando de Noronha island (Pernambuco), Praia do Forte (Bahia) Ilha Bela (São Paulo). Cave divers go to Bonito and the Chapada Diamantina.

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Adventure



There are many opportunities to explore the great outdoors of Brazil from soft adventures to radical experiences. Brazil has excellent opportunities for hiking & trekking, climbing, surfing, horseback riding, rappel, rafting, canoeing, hang/paragliding and many other sports in nature.

Caving

Brazil has a very rich and diverse cave heritage, more than 3.500 caves registered at the Brazilian Speleology Society. Beautiful cave systems that can be visited can be found in Petar (São Paulo), the Chapada Diamantina (Bahia), Bonito (Mato Grosso do Sul), and the Chapada dos Guimarães (Mato Grosso).

Climbing and Mountaineering

For those who like their shot of adrenaline in wild and beautiful natural areas, Brazil offers many interesting technical climbs. Just in the city of Rio de Janeiro there are many possibilities, including the famous Sugar Loaf. Within two hours from Rio, the Serra dos Orgãos National Parks offers many impressive walls.

Brazil has 29 peaks over 2.300 meters, and many of them are located in National Parks.

Hang and para gliding

Hanggliding was introduced by a French pilot in Brazil in 1974. The sport quickly became popular and today, both hang and para gliding can be practiced in many places of Brazil. The thermals over the highland plains of the "cerrado" are especially good for long flights.

Hiking, Trekking and Biking

Popular all over Brazil and there are endless possibilities. Many National Parks have good hiking trails. You can also hike parts of the Estrada Real (old Gold Route from interior of Minas to lovely Parati). On islands like Ilha Grande (Rio State) and Ilha Bela (São Paulo state) you can combine hiking with visits to beautiful and often deserted beaches. Biking trails is often also an option.

Horse riding

Ever since the arrival of the "conquistadores" Brazil has been a horse loving country. The Brazilian breeds Mangalarga Marchador, Campolino and Criollo are all descendants of Iberian horses. Wild horses still roam in remote wilderness areas like the Pantanal and the savannas of Roraima. In many rural areas you can rent horses.

Overland Expeditions

A great way to know wild and pristine parts of Brazil: overland expeditions allow you to venture off the beaten paths on often quite exclusive itineraries. Some examples are Jalapão (Tocantins), Ceará and Maranhão Coast, Estrada Real (old gold route) between Ouro Preto and Diamantina (MG), Transpantaneira (Pantanal – Mato Grosso) and the National Parks of Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas (Goiás), and Grande Sertão Veredas (Minas Gerais).

Rafting and Canoeing

Rafting and canoeing is becoming increasingly popular in Brazil and the many river systems of Brazil provide lots of opportunities. The Itajaí-Açu near Ibirama (SC) is the most challenging river category (IV+).



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Hanggliding was introduced by a French pilot in Brazil in 1974. The sport quickly became popular and today, both hang and para gliding can be practiced in many places of Brazil. The thermals over the highland plains of the “cerrado” are especially good for long flights.

Hiking, Trekking and Biking

Popular all over Brazil and there are endless possibilities. Many National Parks have good hiking trails. You can also hike parts of the Estrada Real (old Gold Route from interior of Minas to lovely Parati). On islands like Ilha Grande (Rio State) and Ilha Bela (São Paulo state) you can combine hiking with visits to beautiful and often deserted beaches. Biking trails is often also an option.

Horse riding

Ever since the arrival of the “conquistadores” Brazil has been a horse loving country. The Brazilian breeds Mangalarga Marchador, Campolino and Criollo are all descendants of Iberian horses. Wild horses still roam in remote wilderness areas like the Pantanal and the savannas of Roraima. In many rural areas you can rent horses.

Overland Expeditions

A great way to know wild and pristine parts of Brazil: overland expeditions allow you to venture off the beaten paths on often quite exclusive itineraries. Some examples are Jalapão (Tocantins), Ceará and Maranhão Coast, Estrada Real (old gold route) between Ouro Preto and Diamantina (MG), Transpantaneira (Pantanal – Mato Grosso) and the National Parks of Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas (Goiás), and Grande Sertão Veredas (Minas Gerais).

Rafting and Canoeing

Rafting and canoeing is becoming increasingly popular in Brazil and the many river systems of Brazil provide lots of opportunities. The Itajaí-Açu near Ibirama (SC) is the most challenging river category (IV+).

Practical Guide

Traveling in Brazil is easy, if you remember that there are different Brazils. Most of the big cities offer modern services and amenities to residents and visitors alike. However, the further you plan to get off the beaten track, the better you should prepare.

Brazilian Maps and Guidebooks

Guia 4 Rodas, Philips Guides in Brazil
All major guidebook publishers cover Brazil.



Climate and Weather

The climate varies according to latitude and altitude. The seasons are exactly the opposite of those in Europe and the United States (except in the north of the country). The average annual temperature is approximately 28°C in the north and 20°C in the south.

Communications

Any part of the world can be reached in real time by phone, fax or e-mail.

Currency and Money Matters

Real (R\$). Dollars and traveler's checks can easily be changed in hotels, authorized banks and travel agencies. International credit cards are accepted in most hotels, shops and restaurants. In big cities it is possible to draw cash using Cirrus or Maestro cards.



Health

Always check with your doctor before traveling. Yellow fever recommended. Malaria is present in the Amazon.

Time Zones

Brazil has three time zones and part of the country has Summer Time. Brasilia time is usually - 3h GMT and + 2h New York.



Transport

Brazil has a good domestic airline network and excellent long distance busses. Car Rental at airports and major city centres. Taxis are relatively cheap.

Visa And Passports

An entry visa is not required for holders of passports from most European or South American countries. As a matter of reciprocity, a visa is required for those from North America.



The Brazil Foreign Ministry site has a list of Brazilian embassies and consulates abroad and foreign embassies and consulates in Brazil

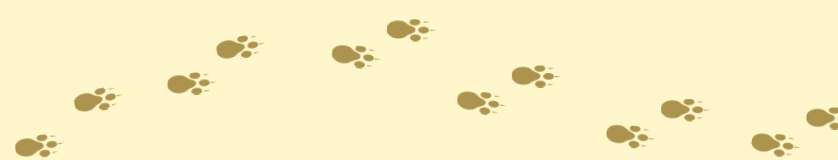
<http://www.mre.gov.br/ingles/consular_service/foreigners.asp>

Voltage

In the majority of Brazilian cities the electric current is either 110 or 220 volts, although it is advisable to confirm the voltage before plugging in any appliance.

Websites

<www.sustainabletourismbrazil.org>
<www.embratur.org.br>
<www.brazilforyou.com>
<www.ecoviagem.com.br>
<www.discoverbrazil.com>



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Guía Practico



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Pousada Ecológica



Rua Desembargador Mello Rocha 309
 Centro Alcobaca/BA CEP 22222-222
 tel. (73) 293.2336 fax (73) 293.2336
 www.paradiseinn.com.br
 reserva@paradiseinn.com.br

Ecologic refuge | 10 rooms | 20 beds | from US\$ 320 to US\$ 380 | breakfats
 Refugio ecologico | 10 cuartos | 40 lechos | de US\$ 320 hasta US\$ 380 | desayuno



The Reserve is a state conservation unit located in the middle Solimões River (Amazon). It was first declared a protected area in 1990 as an ecological station. The Uakari Floating Lodge was designed for minimum environmental impact. Its 10 spacious suites are equipped with solar power, natural ventilation and a sewage filtration system. The two-floor central unit has a restaurant, a bar, library and video and conference room. The location of the floating lodge has been carefully chosen: it is in a bend in the river with ample opportunities for observing wildlife without leaving the premises.

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Gateway city / punto de entrada: Manaus
 IATA code: 2345
 Nearest city/town / Ciudad más cerca: Santa Cruz de la Sierra
 Distance from gateway / distancia del punto de entrada: 300 km
 Transfer time / Tiempo de transferencia: 30 min by boat



Jacarí Floating Lodge



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Ecobrasil



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Operadora B



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