

# **World66's guide to Rio de Janeiro**

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# Rio de Janeiro

*Rio de Janeiro* is one of the most beautiful and spectacular cities in the world. The best way to appreciate the setting is by going up *Sugar Loaf Mountain* (Pão de Açúcar), where you'll get a spectacular 360-degree view of Rio and Guanabara Bay. Notice how the natural harbour is surrounded by lush, high mountains that meet the sea in the world-famous beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema. Continue up to the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer on *Corcovado Mountain* to get an even higher perspective. You can either drive or take a funicular up to the statue the best view is on the right-hand side. From up here you can see that Rio is divided by a mountain range into two areas: the Zona Norte (North Zone) and the Zona Sul (South zone). The Zona Sul holds most of the city's sights, including the Sugar Loaf and the famous beaches. Across the bay is Niteroi.

One of Rio's most precious resources is often overlooked: its people. Brazil is a melting pot of races, colors and creeds. No one race, color or religion dominates in Brazil. There is room for all, and that includes the many visitors who come to Brazil each year from every corner of the planet. Cariocas are particularly warm and fun loving. Schedule about three days and four nights to explore Rio and on a hot day you can escape to Petropolis.

## Rio de Janeiro – Accommodation

all

### Hotel Ipanema Inn

Hotel Ipanema Inn is considered one of Rio's best value lodgings since it opened its doors in 1976. The hotel is just a few steps from Ipanema Beach, where one can practice cruising or simply relax and tan under the delicious sun drinking from a coconut or the famous 'caipirinha'.

In its well known sidewalk starting early in the morning, there are people jogging, skating or enjoying a bicycle ride. Located on Rua Maria Quitéria, one of the most interesting cross-streets in Ipanema. It is only a short block from the Our Lady of Peace Square, surrounded by a church, a number of top restaurants, nightclubs, bars, movie theaters, 24-hour newsstands, bookstores, bakeries, cafés, gyms, pet shops, gentlemen's bars etc.

address: Rua Maria Quitéria 27, Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro.

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### Rio Internacional Hotel

The privileged location on Avenida Atlantica, offers panoramic views of Brazil's most famous beach, Copacabana, to the front and the steep granite hills characteristic to the Rio de Janeiro area to the rear. Rio Internacional Hotel offers an exclusive world class service specifically tailored to the needs of company executives and business traveler. Just 20 km from the international airport and 10 minutes from the city's financial center and domestic airport, the Rio Internacional Hotel is ideally situated.

address: Av. Atlântica 1500, Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro.

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Demonstration Hotel**

Single room with private completed bathroom, TV, radio, minibar, phone, air-conditioning and safety box. Internet room rate USD 55 Including Brazilian breakfast

address: San Sebastian 2839, of 201, Brasilia.

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Savoy Othon Travel**

Located only two blocks from the beautiful Copacabana Beach, the Savoy Othon Travel is perfect for the businessperson and tourist alike due to its easy access to the downtown area and also to major tourist attractions. The hotel was recently refurbished and offers modern facilities.

address: Av. N. Senhora de Copacabana 995, Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro.

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Aeroporto Othon Travel**

The Aeroporto Othon Travel is the ideal hotel for the business traveler. Located in the downtown area at the financial center of Rio de Janeiro, it is only 5 minutes away from the Domestic Airport and the Modern Art Museum.

address: Av. Beira Mar 280, Centro, Rio de Janeiro.

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **appartments**

In Rio de Janeiro are many possibilities to rent private appartments for a decent price. Some appartements are offered in travel agancies but also a lot of private owner can be meet in front of youth hostels or guesthouses which are waiting for customers. Special when carnaval season starts it is a great alternative to expensive hotels or general accomodation. Of course there are different types of flats in size and it starts for one person appartements up to 4–8 people. Prices are starting around 15–20 Us\$ per night and most of appartements are in good conditions with kitchen, bathroom, tv set and sleeping room. If you are on budget, try to share the appartment with other travellers but dont forget to get more than one key for it. Famous areas are Catete an Copacobana, whereas Catete has more favourable prices. Catete is really secure area where are many supermarkets, restaurants around and it is easy to get around with buses or even subway.

email: [chmaquin@wanadoo.fr](mailto:chmaquin@wanadoo.fr)

## **Rio de Janeiro – Beaches**

The most beautiful beach in Rio you will find in Barra da Tijuca. At least that is the opinion from Maria Barbosa.

**all**

## Copacabana

Famous from the song this beach is divided into a number of postos (sections), where the lifeguards are located. Each section is known for a certain type of people, for example, artists, gays, young people etc. The safest area is probably in front of the major hotels as the Meridien. If you come to Rio you cannot give a miss to this celebrated curved beach. The beach is only four sq km.

The name Copacabana has a Bolivian origin. Historians trace it to a XVII century image of Our Virgin Lady of Copacabana, brought by the Portuguese from a small village around distant Lake Titicaca. It was installed in a chapel that would later be demolished for the construction of Forte de Copacabana.

Until the late XIX century Copacabana was a distant area covered with sand, dunes and shrubs – not unlike Barra in the 60's. A small fishermen's village concentrated most of the dwellers. The neighborhood only started to grow with the opening of Tunel Velho, connecting it to Botafogo and Downtown.

The inauguration of the Av. Atlantica along the beach around the 1900's was a major turning point. When Copacabana Palace Hotel opened its doors in 1923, romance and glamour became Copacabana trademarks. Neoclassical and art-nouveau skyscrapers (4 to 12 stories high) added a touch of sophistication and wealthy Cariocas started to move to the suspended mansions.

Copacabana today is one of Rio's most democratic and eclectic neighborhoods. There are penthouses and apartments along the beach that are easily worth more than a million dollars. There are also buildings with as many as thirty tiny studio apartments on the same floor, and no parking garage.

Copacabana is perfectly suitable for walking tours, as it is basically flat, and distances are relatively small. To better understand the diversity of the neighborhood we suggest you take your time, and use one or two days exploring all possibilities. Copacabana has a little (and sometimes a lot) of everything, and there's fun for everyone. Here are some of our the things you don't want to miss:

Right next to Forte de Copacabana you will find the fishermen's corner, with a tradition of over 100 years. It is an amazing concept that fishermen actually make a living right in the heart of one of Rio's most urban areas. Come before sunrise to watch the action – seeing to believing. You may even help to pull the fishnets out of the water. Fresh fish are for sale at the stand every morning. Don't forget the photo among the fishermen's boats on the beach sand...

Lido's bustling nightlife is an attraction apart. The area concentrates some of Rio's most famous strip clubs and bars. They are hard to miss with the neon signs at the door, and usually a window with suggestive photos of dancers. Boite Holiday, Frank's Bar, Cicciolina, Pussycat, Scotch Bar, Niko's, and Baccara are also part of this circuit, and each one has a legion of fans. **Paul:** Beyond the five star hotels, you'll find nice places to eat. You'll also have to dodge beggars, thieves, endless aggressive street vendors and tons of attractive (drugged) hookers and the rich European older men that prey on them on the beach. Recommendation; if you're not there to see this then go to the Barra.

## Ipanema

Ipanema is another beach connected with the Copacabana. Ipanema is a little bit less built-up than Copacabana and the beach is probably cleaner. Praia de Arpoadar at the Copacabana end of Ipanema is a great place to watch the surfers. There is no artificial light at night. **Jo Lehl:** A dream at 3 o'clock in the night.

sitting at the coconut hut, sipping on a cold beer and see the yellow lights of the fawelas. After one night of fear, I loved it. *hendrickx* :

## Rio de Janeiro – Eating Out

Rio has restaurants to suit every taste and budget with options for every size of group from two to many hundreds. Eating out is a major attraction with the Cariocas themselves so you can expect the best, be it that you choose top quality French cuisine, or something more traditionally Brazilian, such as barbecue or a filling feijoada.

### all

#### Restaurante Sírio e Libanês

Good for falafel and other Lebanese specialities.

address: Rua Senhor dos Passos,217 – Centro

tel: 224 5676

#### Associação Macrobiotica

The only Macrobiotic restaurant in Rio.

#### Semente

Vegan restaurant with a juice bar.

address: Rua Joaquim Silva, 138 Lapa

tel: 21-242-5165

#### Health's

Best vegetarian option with a juice bar and a salad bar.

address: R. Senador Dantas, 84, Loja 'G' (Crosstr. Centro)

tel: 21-240-5388

#### Carretão Churrascaria

A really great place to have churrasco, the Brazilian word for slow-grilled meats. If you like meat, this is *the place* in Copacabana to get it. The price is fairly reasonable for Americans and Europeans, considering that to get a comperable meal at an off-peak hour at a similar establishment in Chicago costs around USD 30

address: Rua Ronald de Carvalho, 55 A e B – Praça do Lido, Copacabana – 22021-020 – Rio de Janeiro – RJ

tel: (21) 2543-2666

PriceOfMenu: R\$ 21,90

email: carretao@carretao.com.br

priceofmenu: R\$ 21,90

zipcode: CEP: 22021-020

## Rio de Janeiro – Festivals

**all**

### **Carnival**

Carnival in Rio is the only real Carnival. Everybody is out dancing in the streets. Participants plan (and save up for) their colorful exquisite costumes for a year (though some costumes seem to be little more than glitter and one or two sequins). The best costumes can be seen on Sunday and Monday of Carnival week in the specially constructed SAMBÓDROMO (in downtown -- subway station Praça Onze). The shows start at 8 pm and continue until 8 am! Buy your tickets well in advance. Carnival is a must at least once in a lifetime.

The dates on which Carnival (Mardi Gras) happens depend on a religious calendar (Roman Catholic Church). The Carnival (Mardi Gras) starts on Saturday and ends on Tuesday.

2002

February 09th. to 12th.

2003

February 01st. to 04th.

2004

February 21st. to 24th.

2005

February 05th. to 08th.

2006

February 26th. to March 01st.

2007

February 17th. to 20th.

2008

February 02nd. to 05th.

2009

February 21st. to 24th.

2010

February 13th. to 16th.

### **New Year's Celebration**

The Copacabana beach is also home to Rio's famous New Year's celebration. It attracts over 2 million people from all over the world! Following a local tradition, most people dress in white for good luck. Offering a white flower to Yemanjá, the goddess of the seas, is also a part of the ritual. The exquisite fireworks festival starts at midnight, lasting almost a half hour. With white sand and waters that are never rough, this is also a very popular beach for sunbathing. During the summer international championships of beach soccer, volleyball and other sports are promoted in arenas along Copacabana Beach. Some beach kiosks are open around the clock, offering refreshments and snacks. Cross the street and explore the beachside cafes, restaurants, and night clubs along Av. Atlantica.

## **Rio de Janeiro – Getting Around**

There are a number of possibilities to get around in this big city. You can either choose from different types of buses, use the efficient metro, hire taxis or rent a car.

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### **By Metro**

The Metro is a very efficient way of going from one place to another. It is air conditioned and clean. There are two lines. It operates from 6 am to 11 pm on working days, but only from 2 pm – 8 pm on Saturdays. Closed on Holidays. There are different tickets, so go to a ticket counter and find out the one that suits you: single, multi or integrated bus & metro tickets.

### **By taxi**

Taxis have red number plates with white digits and meters. There are some smaller types with a taxi sign on top. As a general rule make sure that the meter is switched on Tariff 1, except between 11 pm and 6 am or on Sundays and holidays – then the more expensive Tariff 2 is used. **IMPORTANT:** Only use taxis with an official identification sticker on the windscreen. Complain if the route is too long or the fare too much. Radio Taxis are recommended because there are supposed to be more reliable.

## **Rio de Janeiro – Getting There**

**all**

### **By bus**



Buses run from Rio to all parts of the country. It is advisable to book a ticket in advance. There are a number of travel agents to book a ticket, for example, go to Itapemirim Turismo, R Urguaiana 10, loja 24. Call 5098543. The agency is located in the centre. The central international bus station is reached by bus from all parts of town. Some buses serving it are buses no. M94 and M95.

### **By air**

There are hundreds of flights from all continents and South America to Rio. Domestic flights arrive or leave from Santos Dumont airport. International flights go to Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport (earlier known as Galeao). There are taxis and busses running into town from both airports. Some taxi companies have fixed rates, but it is rather expensive. You pay for the car and not for the number of passengers, so if you can share a taxi you can bring down the cost to less than \$-US 10 for four passengers.

## **Rio de Janeiro – Internet Cafes**

### **all**

#### **Copa Cybercafé**

Two blocks away from the Beach of Copacabana, located on the 9th floor of a shopping, away from the noise of the streets. High speed link, modern computers. Open daily until 10 p.m. Rua Siqueira Campos, 43/901 – <http://www.copacyber.com.br> E-mail: [copacyber@hotmail.com](mailto:copacyber@hotmail.com)

#### **Saraiva MegaStore**

Located at Saraiva MegaStore (shopping Rio Sul 2nd floor) has a Ciber Cafe with easy internet access.

#### **Internet House**

A Internet House, at o momento, a nica casa especializada a oferecer, no bairro de Copacabana,(Av.N.Senhora de Copacabana 195 / lj – 106, Tel: 021-2543-0566 – FAX – E-mail – [cybercafe@internethouse.zzn.com](mailto:cybercafe@internethouse.zzn.com)) servios desta natureza e cadastrad monitors and coffee doc

price: 10 minutes R\$1,00 – 30 minutes R\$3,00 – 1:00 hour

tel: (51) 21 – 2543-0566

email: [cybercafe@internethouse.zzn.com](mailto:cybercafe@internethouse.zzn.com)gl.0\_0FF60102\*m

hours: 7:00 Hours a 00:00 hours

address: Av.Nossa Senhora de Copacabana, 195 / loja – 106

url: [www.internethouse.com.br](http://www.internethouse.com.br)

#### **Internetcafe**

We have a dedicated connection with Embratel. Call center (International, National and Local), print, scanner and fax. Speak English, Spanish and Portuguese.

price: One hour (Internet): R\$ 7,50 (Reais) / Four minutes R\$ 0,50  
tel: Store 1: (55 21) 2122-0055 / Store 2: (55 21) 2122-0056  
email: fonerio@hotmail.com  
hours: Every day (including Holidays): All stores  
address: Store 1: Miguel Lemos Street, 25 – Store 2: Constante

### **Internet C@fé**

Sabados das 9:00 as 13:00  
Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Conexão Direta com o Link de 512 KBPS  
Envio e recepção de Fax Envio e recepção de Mails (pop) Chat Serviços de  
Impressão e Scanner Digitação Uso de vá

price: R\$ 10,00  
tel: + 55 21 531-1201  
email: internet\_cafe@infotecrio.com.br  
hours: Segunda a Sexta das 9:00 as 19:00  
address: Rua da Assembleia, 10 Lj. 112  
Rio de Janeiro 20011-000 Brasil  
url: [www.infotecrio.com.br](http://www.infotecrio.com.br)

### **Net Corner – A Internet a seu alcance**

Net Corner is a chain of Internet access centers. Established in November, 1999 with the objective of being the largest physical network of access centers to the Internet via broadband in Brazil and Latin America, our stores are equipped with lat

price: R\$ 6,00  
email: webmaster@netcorner.com.br  
hours: 9 a.m to 8 p.m. – Mon to Fri 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Sat  
address: Rio de Janeiro, 1 Loja no Shopping Iguatemi, Rio  
url: [www.netcorner.com.br](http://www.netcorner.com.br)

### **Shadows Internet Center**

Largest Cafe on Rio's south zone, Shadows Internet Center has 48 top PCs and 1 Mac. Microsoft Office and IM are available. Gaming Zone with Blizzard games (battlenight) and Counter-Strike dedicated stations. 1st Gaming Center in Brazil with GeFor

price: R\$ 5.00/hour  
tel: 55 21 2511-7826  
email: mrmachado@shadows.com.br

hours: Opened Daily from 8:00 am to last customer

address: Av. Ataulfo de Paiva, 1314 – 1st Floor,  
Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 22258, Brazil

url: [www.shadows.com.br](http://www.shadows.com.br)

### **SR Café**

2 micros for Internet access, coffee, candies, small food. English, French and Spanish spoken.

price: R\$ 2.50 for 15 minutes

tel: 55 21 5331542

email: [srinfo@silvamos.com.br](mailto:srinfo@silvamos.com.br)

hours: Mon./ to Fri. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

address: Av. Rio Branco 156 sblj 315  
Rio de Janeiro – RJ 20043–900 Brazil

url: [www.silvamos.com.br](http://www.silvamos.com.br)

### **Tudo e Facil – Estacao Internet**

Tudo e Facil Estacao Internet is the largest Cybercafe in Brazil, with exceptional service and connection. Our qualified attendants will point you into the right direction.

price: R\$ 3,00 for 15 minutes

tel: 55–21–5223970

email: [marcos\\_neme@hotmail.com](mailto:marcos_neme@hotmail.com)

hours: Mon – Sat: 10 AM – 10 PM Sunday: 3PM – 9PM

address: Rua Xavier da Silveira, 19 lj. B  
Rio de Janeiro Brazil

url: [www.tudoefacil.com.br](http://www.tudoefacil.com.br)

### **Acesso Zero**

Acesso Zero Lan House e Internet – Ambiente confortvel e descontrado com acesso rpido a Internet

price: R\$ 6,00

tel: (21) 2433–7777

email: [zero@acessozero.com.br](mailto:zero@acessozero.com.br)

address: Av. Ayrton Senna 250 loja F Alfa Barra 1

url: [www.acessozero.com.br](http://www.acessozero.com.br)

### **CONEXAO CAFE**

In the quarter charmoso, close to the girl to

ipanema, with conditional air, telephone, cafe, snacks, personalized attendance.

price: R\$4,00 hour

tel: 2522-1855

email: conexaocafe@hotmail.com

address: rua visconde de piraja, 03 ipanema

### **FONE RIO – INTERNET AND CALL CENTER**

#### INTERNET PRICES:

4 MINUTES – R\$ 0,50 (FIFTH CENTS).

10 HOURS – R\$ 45,00.

#### PHONE PRICES:

##### EACH 1 MINUTE:

LOCAL (NORMAL PHONE) – R\$ 0,30

LOCAL (MOBILE PHONE) – R\$ 1,50

NATIONAL – R\$ 0,70

#### INTERNATIONAL:

EXAMPLE: USA/CANADA – R\$ 2,10

price: Each four minutes – R\$ 0,50

tel: Store 1: (55 21) 2122-0055 / Store 2: (55 21) 2122-0056

email: fonerio@fonerio.com.br

hours: Every day (including Holidays): 08 AM at 01 AM

address: Store 1: Miguel Lemos Street, 25 B

url: [www.fonerio.com.br](http://www.fonerio.com.br)

zipcode: 14 computers. The best connection in Rio. ADSL 512k

### **Acesse Aqui Cybercafe**

13 computers available, printer, scanner, video conference. Internet minimum:15 minutes-R\$3,00. Printing: Sheet A4 – b&

price: R\$ 10,00h

tel: (55) (21) 247-8189

email: [acesse aqui@alternex.com.br](mailto:acesse aqui@alternex.com.br)  
hours: 9 am to 9 pm – monday to saturday. 9:00 as 21:00 – segunda a sábado  
address: Rua Francisco Otaviano, 67/loja K – Galeria River – Copacabana  
Rio de Janeiro – RJ Brazil  
url: [www.acesse aqui.com.br](http://www.acesse aqui.com.br)

### **CopaCybercafe**

Located two blocks away from de Beach, on the 9th floor of the building

price: US\$ 5,00  
tel: (+5521) 548 7953  
email: [copacyber@hotmail.com](mailto:copacyber@hotmail.com)  
hours: daily until 10 p.m.  
address: Rua Siqueira Campos, 43/901 – Copacabana  
Rio de Janeiro – RJ 22031-070 Brazil  
url: [www.copacyber.com.br](http://www.copacyber.com.br)

### **Cybercafe Internet Center – Downtown**

(Saturdays)

Located in the historical Downtown, near Candelaria Church and Uruguaiana Subway Station (Metro). High link speed, modern computers.

price: US 5,00  
tel: (+5521) 224 1743  
email: [comercial@iconline.com.br](mailto:comercial@iconline.com.br)  
hours: 08:00 a.m. – 09 p.m. (Monday to Friday) 08:00 a.m. – 03:00 p.m.  
address: Rua da Alfandega, 80/401 – Historical Downtown  
Rio de Janeiro – RJ 20000-000 Brazil  
url: [www.iconline.com.br](http://www.iconline.com.br)

### **Geographic Café**

The Geographic Cafe is located inside Wollner Outdoor, a clothing store that sells also books and gear for outdoor life. Our menu includes a variety of sweets, sandwiches and beverages, hot and cold.

price: 15min= R\$3.00/30min=R\$5.00/60min=8.00/180min=20.00  
tel: (5521) 512.3608  
email: [geographiccafe@obaweb.com.br](mailto:geographiccafe@obaweb.com.br)  
hours: Monday–Friday – 9am/8pm Saturday – 9am/4pm Sunday – Closed  
address: Rua Visconde de Pirajá, 511  
Rio de Janeiro, RJ 22410-003 Brazil  
url: [www.wollner.com.br](http://www.wollner.com.br)

### **Image Link**

It's not actually an Internet cafe because we don't sell coffee, although we can get you some from the coffee shop downstairs! :) We are an internet service provider and have a couple of computers to rent directly connected to the net. We are rig

price: R\$ 10,00  
tel: 6096  
email: [suporte@imagelink.com.br](mailto:suporte@imagelink.com.br)  
hours: mon thru fri: 9am ~ 6pm  
address: Rua Visconde de Piraja, 207/216  
Rio de Janeiro, RJ 22410-001  
url: [www.imagelink.com.br](http://www.imagelink.com.br)

### **INTERnet**

tel: 5,52434E+11  
Rua Luis Pistarini, 30, loja 30 – Campos Elíseos  
address: ,Resende, Rio de Janeiro  
,27542-090  
,Brazil  
url: [www.bateableu.hpg.com.br](http://www.bateableu.hpg.com.br)

### **CYBERPHONE(Rio de Janeiro)**

WE HAVE: conexao the handle, impressao, to scanner, gravacao COMPACT DISC, opened of the 10:00 hours tie 00:00 hours of second a sunday with conditional air. RIO DE JANEIRO

address: demetrio ribeiro, 99 copacabana  
hours: R\$3,50 each hour  
email: [cyberphone@click21.com.br](mailto:cyberphone@click21.com.br)  
price: R\$3,50  
tel: 21-2295-3333  
zipcode: XP 2000

## **Rio de Janeiro – Nightlife and Entertainment**

Nightlife in Rio is fantastic. There is no shortage of cafés, bars, and clubs for of all types for visitors to enjoy. Cariocas (Rio citizens) like the nightlife. It starts late (midnight is early) and continues until morning.

### **all**

#### **The Queens Legs Pub**

address: Av. Epiácio Pessoa, 5.030 Lagoa  
tel: 222 3648

## Rio de Janeiro – Shopping

Shopping is great in Rio. There are a number of great markets, music stores, jewellery shops and so on. Just check out the following sections for more information.

**all**

### **Northeastern Market**

Music and Magic you can find at the Northeastern Market. It is located at Campo de Sao Cristovao. Open on Sundays all day long. Take the bus 472 or 474 from the Centre or the Copacabana respectively.

### **Feirarte I**

This handicraft market takes place every Sunday. Most Cariocas (people of Rio) call it the Feira Hippy. Guess why? It is located at Praca Gen Osorio, Ipanema.

### **Nova Livraria Leonardo da Vinci**

This bookstore is highly recommended for Rio's best collection of foreign books. It is located at Avenida Rio Branco 185.

### **Guanabara Jornais e Revistas**

Recommended bookstore at Rua Antonia Ribas 72.

## Rio de Janeiro – Sights

There is much more to see in Rio than Copacabana. The city hosts numerous interesting museums, some great colonial buildings and impressive churches. A must-see is Sugar Loaf Mountain (Pão de Açucar). There are also numerous galleries with good works of Brazilian artists. The best way to explore the city is by foot, as you will get a good taste of what Rio is all about. Public busses are generally very good, but they are difficult to navigate as there is no route map. If you are visiting for a short period of time, it might be worth making longer trips by taxi; they are not very expensive, especially for Americans. The subway (Metrô) is another good and safe option for getting around the touristy areas, and at R\$ 1,80 (approximately US \$0.60) it's a bargain.

**all**

### **Botanical Garden**

The Botanical Garden was founded in 1808. The garden covers 137 hectares. The neo-classical gateway dates back to the last century, with XVIII century bronze statues scattered along its paths and lawns. Phone: 2390718.

openinghours: 8 am – 5 pm

### **Wet'n Wild**

The attractions are located on an area of 110 square metres.

openinghours: 10 am – 5 pm, Thu–Sun, in summer time until 6 pm

### **Aterro de Flamengo**

Located in the heart of town, this giant park covers 120 hectares along the shores of the Guanabara Bay. The gardens were invented by Roberto Burle Marx during the 60s. It has a marina, beach, jogging tracks and and and..

### **Suriname**

The structure that dominates the corner of Copacabana and Arpoador is well worth a visit. This is where you get to take the classical photo of Copacabana Beach you see on postcards. Take a short walk uphill for photos of Arpoador Park, Ipanema and Leblon. The Forte was built by the military around 1908 in the spot where the old Copacabana chapel used to be. Powerful cannons were installed in the rock to protect the city from invaders. Today Forte de Copacabana is a cultural center, and you are welcome to visit inside. The fireworks cascade along Forte de Copacabana is one of the highlights of the New Year's Eve festival.

address: Copacabana / Arpoador

### **Sugar Loaf (Pao de Acucar)**

The hill 396m above Rio is a must–see. There are two cable cars bringing you to the top. They leave every half–hour from Praca General Tiburcio at Praia Vermelha in Urca. To get to Urca catch a bus No. 107 from the centre or bus No. 500, 511 or 512 from the Zona Sul. *svain*: Great views! Worth the climb.

openinghours: 8 am to 10 pm, daily

### **Amsterdam Sauer Museum of Precious Stones**

A collection of more than 3000 stones and minerals.

openinghours: 9 am – 6 pm, Mon–Fri and on Saturday only until 3 pm

tel: 5121132

### **Modern Art Museum**

The MAM displays a well–known collection of modern paintings. The museum itself is housed in an interesting building.

openinghours: 12 pm – 6 pm, Tue–Sun

tel: 2102188

### **Acude Museum**

An interesting collection of handicrafts and tiles from Northeast Brazil. The museum is located near the Tijuca Forest. Access only by road.

openinghours: 11 am – 4.30 pm, Tue – Sun

tel: 4925443

### **Museu Historico Nacional**



The National History museum is a must-see. It displays a great collections of historical items, for instance, maps, paintings, arms and colonial sculptures. Admission is about \$-US 1. Call 2400088 for further information. To get there take bus No. 123, 125, 172, 180, 2017, 2018 or 2145.

address: Praca Rui Barbosa / Praca Marechal Ancora  
 openinghours: 10 am – 13:30 on Tuesday– Friday / Saturday, Sunday and holidays 2 pm – 6 pm  
 openings: 10 am – 13:30 on Tuesday– Friday / Saturday, Sunday and holidays 2 pm – 6 pm

### **Museu de Fauna**

A nice exhibition on the fauna of Brazil.

address: Quinta da Boa Vista park  
 openinghours: 12 am – 5 pm

### **Meseu da Imagem e do Som**

A collection of modern national artists are shown: photographs, paintings and recordings of music.

address: Praca Rui Barbosa  
 openinghours: 1 pm – 6 pm, Monday to Friday

### **Sao Bento Monastery**

Benectine monastery built between 1617 and 1805. A gem of Brazilian religious art. The Sunday mass, at 10 am, is a must. Dress appropriate. Call 2917122 for further information.

### **Candelaria Church**

This famous church is located in Rio downtown. It is a good example for the late XIX century taste for opulent, Neo-Baroque architecture, with beautiful wall paintings. The following busses are passing: 107, 121, 123, 125, 172, 180, 2017, 2018 and 2145.

openinghours: 7:30 am– 4 pm, Mon–Fri and 9 am – 1 pm,  
 Sat–Sun  
 tel: 2332324

### **Hotel Copacabana Palace**

Rio's most glamorous hotel, Copacabana Palace has played a major role in the social and cultural life of Rio de Janeiro since it opened its doors, in the early 20's. The project by architect Joseph Gire was inspired in grand European hotels like the Negresco in Nice, and the Carlton in Cannes. Edith Piaf, Nat King Cole, Rock Hudson, De Gaulle, Eva Peron, Queen Elisabeth (and Charles and Diana), Walt Disney... the list of VIP's who have stayed here is endless. It was the setting for the Fred and Ginger's Flying down to Rio. Even books have been written about it. If you cannot afford to stay here, you can at least enjoy an afternoon tea by the pool, or maybe a meal at outstanding restaurant Cipriani.

address: Copacabana

## Bairro Peixoto

This landmark art–deco district right in the middle of Copacabana's delicious urban chaos is a haven of peace, preserving a small–town atmosphere. Buildings are 4–stories high or lower. There is a quiet square where the elderly play chess next to children in the playground. There is a youth hostel in the area, and Bairro Peixoto is also popular with international budget traveler. Walk a few blocks and you are on the main street or the beach.

### Lido

The area between Copacabana Palace and Av. Princesa Isabel is known as Lido. It concentrates a number of landmark art–nouveau and neoclassical buildings, a living memory of a glamorous past. Masterpieces like building Itahy on Av. Copacabana 252 are not to be missed (photo under the mermaid). Many of these buildings have huge 5–bedroom apartments with only one bathroom and no garage, as parking on the street was the norm. Most were adapted to other uses by language schools, and other businesses.

## Rio de Janeiro – Practical Information

### all

#### Safety

Rio has some pretty significant problems, like poverty, corruption, and gang warfare, but the city is working hard to fix them. There is a tourist police along the beach, and this has significantly helped the city's image. Be careful and carry only as much money as you can afford to lose. Please do not wear any valueable i.e. expensive watch with you and the best is to dress like the inhabitants do. When its getting dark it is recommend not to walk along the beach, lots of youth gangs are using the dark for holdups. It is in general better in the night to drive with offical taxis and always recommended to ask which areas or streets are not safe for tourists. If you want to use a camera, put it in a simple brasilian supermarket plastic bag. Wearing a backpack be sure to fix the zipper with wire that nobody can open it in the crowd.

#### Language

Portuguese is the local language, but it is different from the Portuguese spoken in Portugal. Few people outside of the tourist industry speak English. Spanish is helpful to know, as many words in Portuguese are the same, but pronounced differently.

## Rio de Janeiro – Things to do

Beyond the sightseeing, Rio offers a number of pleasant and relaxing activities, including:

- Listening to live Bossa Nova at the Butiquim Carioca in Botafogo, or at Severina in Laranjeiras
- Getting a fresh fruit juice at any corner juice stand ... caja (wow!) caju, graviola, fruta do conde, manga or just plain suco de laranja
- Going for a drink at night at Praia Vermelha, next to the Sugar Loaf

- Going to Rio's Porcão in Flamengo for a "rodizio" ... a steak and meat feast. There's also the seafood rodizio at Mariu's in Leme
- Samba dancing lessons or going to an ensaio or baile (of Beija Flor, for example) at the Scala
- Having lunch at Albamar and then taking the boat over to Niteroi for one of the best views of Rio, from the "Saco de São Francisco" beach
- Eating a steak sandwich at Uruguay, Posto 9 at Ipanema, while admiring the perfect bodies
- Watching a football game at Maracanã stadium
- Eating good, fresh sushi (for example, at Sushi Leblon or Tanaka)
- Playing or watching football and foot-volley at the beach ... either at Ipanema, Copacabana or Leme ...
- Watching the sunrise at Arpoador and then going for a run or bike ride at Ipanema or around Lagoa
- Ordering a "Muqueca de Peixe" at Grumari beach after a day sunning or surfing at Prainha
- Hand-gliding from the "Pedra da Gavea" in São Conrado
- Watching the sunset on the sidewalk of Ipanema with an ice cold drink

**all**

### **Rio Adventures**

Extreme, Adventure and Alternative tour operator in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We provide activities such as : water sports: rafting, kayaking, scuba diving / air sports: skydiving, paragliding, hang gliding / land sports: rappelling, hiking, caving, tree climbing, rock climbing, expeditions, off road trips / pub crawl and more

email: [info@rioadventures.com](mailto:info@rioadventures.com)

address: Av. Amaral Peixoto 450/1007 , Niteroi-RJ-Brazil

tel: 55 21 2705 5747

url: [www.rioadventures.com](http://www.rioadventures.com)

zipcode: 24.020-040

## **Rio de Janeiro – Tours and Excursions**

Rio Adventures is an Extreme, Adventure and Alternative Tour Operator in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We provide activities such as: rafting, kayaking, scuba diving, hang gliding, paragliding, parachuting, hiking, rock climbing, tree climbing, off road trips, trekking expeditions, sightseeing tours, pub crawl and more. For more details and booking, go to [www.rioadventures.com](http://www.rioadventures.com)

**all**

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### Notes:

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