

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

City File

Source: Travel Info

Climate

Tropical climate.

Temperatures	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Maximum	31	31	30	28	26	26	25	25	26	27	28	29
Minimum	24	24	24	23	21	20	19	19	20	21	22	23

Attractions

Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer):

This giant statue of Christ overlooks the city from the summit of Corcovado. It was erected 1922 and 1931, financed almost entirely by contributions from Brazilian Catholics. The statue was created by Polish-French sculptor, Paul Landowski and built by the Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa, in collaboration with the French engineer Albert Caquot. Made of reinforced concrete and soapstone, the figure itself is 30 metres tall with arms stretching 28 metres; it weighs 635 metric tons. Inside its eight-metre-high base is a chapel. The Corcovado rack railway leaves from Rua do Cosme Velho up the 3,5-kilometre track to the statue, through the Tijuca National Park.

Sugarloaf:

Rio de Janeiro's best-known landmark is the rock peak of Sugarloaf, towering 394 metres above the harbour. A cable car leaves from Praça General Tibúrcio to the top of the Morro da Urca, a lower peak from which a second cableway runs to the summit of the Sugarloaf. From there, visitors can see the entire mountainous coast that rings the bay and its islands.

Copacabana:

Copacabana beach stretches for four kilometres. A few steps from the beach are Avenida Atlântica, Avenida Nossa Senhora de Copacabana, and the neighbouring smaller streets where visitors can enjoy century-old buildings, fine hotels, and popular restaurants and cafés. The renowned Copacabana Palace, built in the 1920s and now protected as a national monument, is worth a visit. At the far end of the beach, Copacabana Fort dates from 1914 and was the scene of a 1922 revolt of officers, who took over the fort and turned its artillery on the city. The Museu Histórico do Exército (Museum of the History of the Army) offers interesting information on the revolt.

Ipanema:

The beaches of Ipanema and Leblon offer a great seafront promenade with large hotels, sidewalk cafés, and restaurants. These two districts, although best known for their beaches, have a lively cultural life, with art galleries, cinemas, and an avant-garde theatre. Praça de Quental in Leblon is the scene of an antiques market every Sunday, and Praca General Osorio hosts the Sunday Feira de Artesanato de Ipanema featuring crafts, music, art, and local foods.

Tijuca National Park:

Tijuca National Park protects the 3,300-hectare Tijuca Forest, one of the world's largest forests within a city, which was planted in the late 1850s on land that had been destroyed by coffee plantations, and to safeguard the springs that supplied Rio de Janeiro's water. Most of the trees are native species and provide habitat for Capuchin monkeys, quatis (Brazilian raccoon), toucans, hawks, butterflies, and many other species of wildlife. Visitors can explore the forest on trails and roads.



Other attractions worth considering:

- Abrico Beach (nudist); Parque Lage; Instituto Moreira Salles; Real Gabinete Portugues da Leitura; Palacio do Catete; Itamaraty; Museum of the Republic; Carmen Miranda Museum; Praca Tiradentes; Sao Cristovao; Lapa; Escadaria Selaron; Dona Marta Point; Arcos da Lapa e Santa Tereza (Lapa Arches); National Museum; National History Museum; National Centre for Folklore and Popular Culture; Museum of Modern Art; Museum of Contemporary Art; Old Imperial Palace; Metropolitan Cathedral; Botanical Gardens; Rio Zoo on the grounds of Quinta da Boa Vista Park; Municipal Theatre; Arpoador; Mirante do Pasmado; Centro; Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas; International Native Art Museum; Grunari; Ilha de Paqueta; Lady of the Candles; Monastery of St Benedict; National Museum of Fine Arts; Maracan Sporting Complex; Nossa Senhora de Lapa dos Mercadores; Parca 15 da Novembro; Sao Bento; Sao Francisco di Penitencia; Nossa Senhora da Candelaria; Maracana Stadium; Santa Teresa; Igreja de Gloria; Museo do Indio; Municipal Park.

Shopping & Best buys

- Best known for its coffee; handicrafts; artworks; music; gems; silver jewellery; Brazilian fashion and antiques.
- Shopping hours are from Monday to Saturday 09h00 to 18h00 but. Major shopping centres and supermarkets are open all week, generally until 22h00.
- Feira da General Glicério is a Saturday street market selling local crafts and snacks.
- Feira do Rio Antigo takes place on the first Saturday of the month and has antiques, rare books, and records.
- Credit cards are widely accepted in shops and businesses although less so outside of the main cities.
- Beware, however, of extra charges being added by both local banks and your own branch.
- Hagglng is acceptable in markets when paying in cash.

Airport Facilities

- Rio de Janeiro - Galeão International has banks, bureau de change facilities, ATMs and a post office.
- Free Wi-Fi is available.
- There are several restaurants, bars and cafés.
- Shops throughout the airport include duty-free and gift shops.
- There is a pharmacy and a small 24-hour hospital; a First Aid service and a baby-changing room.
- The airport is fully accessible for travellers with disabilities. Passengers requiring wheelchairs and special assistance should inform their airline prior to travel.
- There are GOL Premium Lounges and Plaza Premium Lounges in the international and domestic terminals. It is open to walk-ins, and prepaid access is available.
- The Aerotel is in the international terminal for passengers in transit. Rooms are available at an hourly rate. Rio Aeroporto Hotel is inside the airport and day rooms are available. The Linx Hotel International Airport Galeao is next to the airport terminal. A free airport shuttle service runs to and from the airport every 20 minutes.

Time Zones

Time difference: 5 hours behind SA.