

PURE BRASIL

ABOUT BRAZIL



PURE BRASIL

The Country

Following more than three centuries under Portuguese rule, Brazil gained its independence in 1822, maintaining a monarchical system of government until the abolition of slavery in 1888 and the subsequent proclamation of a republic by the military in 1889. Brazilian coffee exporters politically dominated the country until populist leader Getulio Vargas rose to power in 1930. By far the largest and most populous country in South America, Brazil underwent more than a half century of populist and military government until 1985, when the military regime peacefully ceded power to civilian rulers. Brazil continues to pursue industrial and agricultural growth and development of its interior. Having successfully weathered a period of global financial difficulty in the late 20th century, Brazil was seen as one of the world's strongest emerging markets and a contributor to global growth. The awarding of the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympic Games, the first ever to be held in South America, was seen as symbolic of the country's rise. However, since about 2013, Brazil has been plagued by a shrinking economy, growing unemployment, and rising inflation. Political scandal resulted in the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff in May 2016, a conviction that was upheld by the Senate in August 2016; her vice president, Michel Temer, served as president until 2018, completing her second term. After elections in 2018, the current president is Jair Bolsonaro.

- ✓ Official name: Federative Republic of Brazil
- ✓ Etymology: the country name derives from the brazilwood tree that used to grow plentifully along the coast of Brazil and that was used to produce a deep red dye.
- ✓ Government: Brazil is a Federal Presidential Constitutional Republic, based on representative democracy.
- ✓ President: Jair Bolsonaro
- ✓ Independence Day: September 7, 1822 (from Portugal)
- ✓ Currency: Brazilian Reals (R\$ / BRL)

Geography

Brazil is located in the Southern Hemisphere of the American Continent: total territory of 8,515,770 sq km (land: 8,358,140 sq km / water: 157,630 sq km). Largest country in South America and in the Southern Hemisphere; shares common boundaries with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador Land boundaries: total: 16,145 km – border countries (10): Argentina 1,263 km, Bolivia 3,403 km, Colombia 1,790 km, French Guiana 649 km, Guyana 1,308 km, Paraguay 1,371 km, Peru 2,659 km, Suriname 515 km, Uruguay 1,050 km, Venezuela 2,137 km.

PURE BRASIL

- ✓ Area: 8 515 767sq km
- ✓ Elevation: mean elevation: 320 m / Elevation extremes: Lowest Point: Atlantic Ocean 0; Highest Point: Pico da Neblina 2,994 m
- ✓ Natural resources: bauxite, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, platinum, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber
- ✓ Major urban areas - population: Sao Paulo 21.066 million; Rio de Janeiro 12.902 million; Belo Horizonte 5.716 million; BRASILIA (capital) 4.155 million; Fortaleza 3.88 million; Recife 3.739 million (2015)
- ✓ Time difference (Brasilia): UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
- ✓ Daylight Saving Time: +1hr, begins third Sunday in October; ends third Sunday in February - it has been officially removed
- ✓ Time Zones: Brazil has three time zones, including one for the Fernando de Noronha Islands
- ✓ Administrative Division: 26 states (estados, singular - estado) and 1 federal district* (distrito federal); Acre, Alagoas, Amapá, Amazonas, Bahia, Ceara, Distrito Federal*, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Para, Paraíba, Paraná, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondônia, Roraima, Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins

People and Society

Brazilian society is made up of a confluence of people of several different origins, from the original Native Brazilians, with the influx of Portuguese colonizers, Africans and, later on, European, Arab, and Japanese immigrants. Other significant groups: Koreans, Chinese, Paraguayans and Bolivians.

- ✓ Population: 209,567,920 inhabitants (2016) - comparison to the world: 6 (July 2016 est.)
- ✓ Ethnicity: Caucasian 47.7%, Mulatto 43.1%, Black 7.6%, Asian 1.1%, Indigenous 0.4% (2010 est.)
- ✓ Urban/Rural population: Urban: 83% – Rural: 17% (2010 est.)
- ✓ Distribution per gender: Masculine 48,90% – Feminine 51,5% (2010 est.)
- ✓ Religion: Roman Catholic 64.6%, other Catholic 0.4%, Protestant 22.2% (includes Adventist 6.5%, Assembly of God 2.0%, Christian Congregation of Brazil 1.2%, Universal Kingdom of God 1.0%, other Protestant 11.5%), other Christian 0.7%, Spirits 2.2%, other 1.4%, none 8%, unspecified 0.4% (2010 est.)

PURE BRASIL

Climate

The climate is predominantly tropical with some variation according to the region. The average annual temperature in the north is 28°C and 22°C in the south. It is one of the richest and most complex ecosystems in the world, with extremely diversified vegetation and sceneries. Brazil is divided into climatic strips: 92% of the country is located between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn. We can, therefore, say that the Brazilian climate is predominantly tropical, with equatorial and subtropical strips (temperate zones) distributed over the remaining 8% of the nation's territory. The predominance of lower altitudes throughout the country provides more elevated temperatures, with averages exceeding 20°C. The seasons are the exact opposite of those in Europe and the United States, except in the Northern region of the country. The average annual temperature is approximately 28°C in the Northern region and 20°C, in the South. Extreme temperatures are rare, but they may occur in winter, where some cities in the south of the country experience negative temperatures, with frost and snow. And in Rio de Janeiro, in the peak of summer, the temperature may reach the 40°C mark.

Typically, Summer is from December to March, Autumn is from March to June, Winter is from June to September, and Spring is from September to December.

Food

The Brazilian cuisine is the result of a mix of European, Indigenous and Africans ingredients. Many of the ingredients and preparation techniques originally Indigenous and adapted by the African slaves and the Portuguese. "Feijoada" is Brazil's National dish. Caipirinha is Brazil's national cocktail, made with cachaça, sugar and lime.

- ✓ *Feijoada: (Portuguese pronunciation: [fejzu'ade]) was a meal that had its origins in the food prepared by the slaves in colonial Brazil's mining districts, on its coffee plantations, and in its sugar cane growing regions. The story was that usually the food given to the slaves was restricted to rice and beans, and that when times were good, or to celebrate a holiday, the slaves were given a bit of the least-desirable cuts of pork (skin, snout, ears, feet, belly) to add to their normal diet. The slaves added this animal protein to the beans they usually ate unadorned, and feijoada was born.*
- ✓ *Caipirinha: is Brazil's national cocktail, made with cachaça (pronounced: [ka'fase]) (sugarcane hard liquor), sugar and lime.[2] Cachaça, also known as pinga, caninha, or any one of a multitude of traditional names, is Brazil's most common distilled alcoholic beverage.*

PURE BRASIL

Although both rum and cachaça are made from sugarcane-derived products, in cachaça the alcohol results from the fermentation of fresh sugarcane juice that is then distilled, while rum is usually made from refinery by-products such as molasses. The drink is prepared by muddling the fruit and the sugar together and adding the liquor. This can be made into a single glass, usually large, that can be shared amongst people, or into a larger jar, from where it is served in individual glasses.

Language

The official language is Portuguese; the accent and the intonation, however, are very different from what one hears in Portugal and other former Portuguese colonies. Some people say that Brazilians speak “Brazilian”, just like Americans can say they speak “American”, and not English.

✓ Greetings and Introductions

Good morning – Bom Dia

Good afternoon – Boa Tarde

Good evening /night – Boa Noite

My name is... – Meu nome é...

What is your name? Qual é o seu nome?

✓ Common Questions

Do you speak English – Fala inglês?

How’s it going? – Tudo bem?

How much is? – Quanto custa?

What time is it? – Que horas são?

At what time...? – A que horas...?

How do I get...? – Como eu chego em...?

How much does it cost? – Quanto custa?

PURE BRASIL

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR TRIP

What to bring

It is advisable to bring a variety of clothing, depending on the places to visit. If traveling to the beach or Jungle, light clothing would be necessary. If traveling during Fall/Winter or to the Southeast/South of the country, winter clothing will be necessary. We recommend guests to bring tennis or hiking shoes, sandals, flip flops, sunscreen, hat, insect repellent; small backpack to take during the tours with your camera, mountain lunch box, water, and something you might need during the tours. Bath suit, sweater, rain cap, medicines, towel, and etc.

Children

Some tours and programs are not suitable for smaller children, and thus not recommended for them. Hotels in the major cities cater to children of all ages, providing children's menus, babysitters and extra beds/cribs – please consult your travel agent in advance.

Park Fees

Visitors to State or National Parks and Natural Reserves should pay entrance fees. Such prices vary a lot and normally are already included in tour rates. An exception is Fernando de Noronha Island daily Preservation Fee that should be paid upon arrival at the Island or previously by the website: www.noronha.pe.gov.br at 'Preservation Fee'.

Tipping Restaurants / Bars

Most bars and restaurants usually include a 10% service charge in the final bill.

When no service charge has been included you should do what you feel most comfortable with.

Tipping for Guides and Drivers

Tipping is not that common in Brazil, and you should do what you feel comfortable with. If you would like to give a tip, tipping is usually done at the end of a stay in a specific area or region, when all services are completed, not on a day-to-day basis. It is customary to have one driver or guide for your entire stay in an area. You should not feel the need to be tipping every time you get transferred somewhere and get out of a vehicle,

PURE BRASIL

even if you won't see the driver again, or to be tipping every time you get assistance along the way. The standard practice is to give one tip at the end of the entire stay in a location, as is feasible.

In case you are at a lodge, you can search for a tipping box at the reception, or during check-out you can request for an envelope. These are usually destined to the lodge staff at the kitchen, room maids, maintenance, and so on. Therefore, if you wish, you can tip your guide in person.

How to make calls

When calling from Brazil:

- ✓ *National Calls: 0 + 21 + city code + telephone number*
- ✓ *International Calls: 00 + 21 + country code + city code + telephone number*

Public Emergency Phone Numbers: Police dial 190 / Fire and Ambulance dial 193.

Some destinations might have little to no cellular signal or internet access. Make sure to check with your travel agent for more information.

Electricity Plugs

Electricity in Brasil is mainly 110 volts but some places are 220 volts. Plug type N (also works with plug C), as image below.

Some accommodations can have adapters, although we recommend bringing your own if possible.



PURE BRASIL

Currency

The Brazilian currency unit is the Real (R\$). Dollars and Travelers Checks can easily be changed in hotels, banks or exchange agencies.

Bank and Businesses

Most businesses are open Monday to Friday from 09:00am to 06:00pm. There are lots of shops and services open on Saturdays and Sundays (in big cities like São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, some open 24/7). Banks are open from Monday to Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

In most of the main cities, most hotels, restaurants and shops will accept international credit cards (traveler checks are acceptable but not so often as credit cards). Airports tend to be safe places that accept most international cards.

ATMs are easily found in major cities. Feel free to ask your arrival guide to help you locate an ATM for obtaining local currency; he or she will be glad to help.

We recommend to not go out carrying lots amounts of cash. Most establishments in main cities should accept credit cards.

Some destinations, as remote jungle lodges, may not accept credit card. Make sure to consult your travel agent for more information.

Customs and Luggage

Each passenger is allowed a 10kg carry-on luggage free of charge. A fee must be paid to include the checked luggage, it can be paid locally or in advance through the airline website. We recommend you to consult your air consolidator, and if necessary, pay for the fee in advance. Within Brazil, most airlines limit each checked luggage to 23kg. Wheelchair or baby stroller should be checked. Airline should provide its own wheelchair if needed. We always recommend you to consult your air consolidator to know more about your airlines' policies for the most up-to-date information.

Health and vaccination

Bottled water is advised and available everywhere. Keep always with you a full water bottle to avoid dehydration. We strongly recommend the use of reusable bottles to avoid plastic. Please consult your travel agent to know if your lodge has a water filling station.

According to the Brazilian Consulate: As of May 2010, Brazil does not require a yellow fever International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis for entering the country

PURE BRASIL

Applicants who have visited certain countries and territories within 90 days prior to entering Brazil are recommended to present a Yellow Fever International Certificate of Vaccination (ICV), known as Yellow Card, upon entering Brazil. The yellow fever vaccine must be taken at least 10 days prior to departure date. The Yellow Card is RECOMMENDED for individuals who have visited any of the following countries and territories within 90 days prior to entering Brazil: Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, French Guyana, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Venezuela.

The Yellow Fever vaccination is also RECOMMENDED for travellers who intend to visit rural areas in any of the following states in Brazil: Acre, Amazonas, Rondonia, Roraima, Amapá, Pará, Tocantins, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás, Distrito Federal, Maranhão and Minas Gerais, in addition to the south of Piauí, the west and south of Bahia, the north of Espírito Santo, the northwest of São Paulo and the west of the states of Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. Keep in mind that most of the coast of Brazil is not a risk area for yellow fever, from Rio Grande do Sul in the south all the way up to Piauí, except for the north of Espírito Santo and the south of Bahia.

Don't forget: it is necessary to be vaccinated at least 10 days prior to travelling. Doubts and other vaccines, for further clarifications and information on vaccination in Brazil, please refer to the Brazilian Consulate or Brazilian Embassy nearest to you.

Passports and Visas

Tourists and visitors from Mercosul countries do not need to present passports. They merely need to show their ID cards. Visitors from other countries must present a passport that is valid for the next six months. For further information on Visas and necessary documentation, access: www.mre.gov.br

Entry visa for foreigners

The visa is federal permission for a foreigner to enter Brazil. For most countries, it is only issued overseas; but for some, a visitor's entry and permanence in Brazilian territory is authorized for a determined amount of time, defined according to the purpose of the trip. However, all foreigners who wish to stay longer in Brazil or who were born in countries that do not have an agreement with Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs should request a visa. It is advisable to consult necessary requirements beforehand, because the process may take a few days to be completed.

PURE BRASIL

The visas are granted to foreigners who come to Brazil for reasons that include diplomatic missions, official trips, tourism, to visit friends and family, business, participation in sport and artistic events, as well as their presence in international seminars and conferences. It is important to remember that the passport must be valid for at least six more months, from the date the visa is requested.

When is the visa not required

It is possible to enter and remain in the country for a specific period of time without a visa so long as the visitor's passport is valid. The information written above is subject to change, serving only as a preliminary general orientation to the foreign traveller. When planning a tour or business trip, it is indispensable consulting the Brazilian diplomatic offices in your country. It is worth remembering that all country in the world request visas for those who are going there to work.

Recently, Brazil has signed a decree to waive visa requirements for visitors from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Japan. *The rule is currently effective since June 17, 2019. Tourists from the aforementioned countries wishing to visit Brazil will no longer need to apply or pay for a visa and will be granted a 90-day tourist visa upon arrival, which can be extended for a further 90 days by simply visiting the nearest Federal Police office - provided that it does not exceed one hundred and eighty days, every twelve months, counted from the date of the first entry into the Country. The new rules apply to all people traveling to Brazil for tourism, business, transit, or to perform sports or artistic activities.*

For further clarifications and information, please refer to the Brazilian Consulate or Brazilian Embassy nearest to you, or your travel agent.