

RIO DE JANEIRO

GUIDE 2010/2011



The best places to eat, sleep and play in Rio de Janeiro

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



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PACKING TIPS

1. For safety reasons, avoid looking like a tourist. "**Dress down:** no fancy watches, cameras or other jewelry, and only carry the cash you need for that day."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro
2. "Bring a **phrasebook** so that you can use it in a bind."—TripAdvisor Member
3. Pack "**a simple, non-designer handbag.** Fanny packs are a no-no."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Inside RIO DE JANEIRO

The names synonymous with Rio de Janeiro glide off the tongue, filled with sizzle and spice: Ipanema, Copacabana, Carnaval. From its bustling beaches to the outrageous February festival, this is a city that knows how to entertain, day or night.

Travel through Tijuca National Park to the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer at the peak of Corcovado Mountain. Take the cable car to the top of Sugar Loaf for another breathtaking view. Explore Brazilian history with tours of the Municipal Theatre, Praca Quinze and the former presidential residence, Catete Palace. Celebrate the city's love of sport with hang gliding, surfing or a game at Maracana Soccer Stadium. Or just chill with a caipirinha on the sand.

Sun and heat are the rule in tropical Rio. The summer lasts from November to March and brings very hot, humid weather.

Safety is a concern, as in any major city, but don't let fear prevent a South America sojourn. Dress casually, don't carry much cash and focus instead on the wonderful riches that Rio has in store.

Top VIEWS



RIO DE JANEIRO'S BEST VIEWS

Don't miss **Corcovado**, the hill where the city's iconic Christ statue resides. "It was magnificent! On the way up, you go through a part of Tijuca National Park, so keep your eyes on the treetops; you might see creatures. Once you reach the top, feast your eyes on the view. It's spectacular!"—TripAdvisor Member, Calgary, Alberta

Corcovado, Trem do Corcovado, Rua Cosme Velho 513, 21 2558 1329

"Ride a cable car to two mountain peaks—**Sugar Loaf**, the tallest and last," and **Urca Hill**—"for outstanding views of the bay, ocean and city. When you reach the last peak, don't miss the park that you can access by walking down the mountain just a short way."—TripAdvisor Member, Houston, Texas

Sugar Loaf Mountain (Pao de Acucar) and Urca Hill, Cable Car Station, Avenida Pasteur 520, Praia Vermelha, 21 2546 8400

Take a ferry to Niteroi and visit the **Museu de Arte Contemporanea**. "The art collection was merely a sideshow. The structure is stunning, and the views from inside, out across the bay and down to the beach are breathtaking." Then, return to Niteroi, where "the view back at the museum hanging out over the cliff was even more impressive."—TripAdvisor Member, Plano, Texas

Museu de Arte Contemporanea de Niteroi, Mirante da Boa Viagem s/n, Boa Viagem, Niteroi, 21 2620 2400

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Corcovado, Trem do Corcovado, Rua Cosme Velho 513, 21 2558 1329
2. Sugar Loaf Mountain (Pao de Acucar), Urca, 21 2546 8400
3. Cristo Redentor (Statue of Christ the Redeemer), Corcovado, 21 2217 7575
4. Botanical Garden (Jardim Botânico), Rua Jardim Botânico 1008, 21 294 6012
5. Ipanema Beach
6. Tijuca National Park, Alto da Boa Vista, 21 2492 2253
7. Arpoador Beach
8. Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rua I de Marco 66, 21 216 0237
9. Forte de Copacabana, At the end of Copacabana beach
10. Santa Teresa



FAMILIES

"Head out to **Lagoa**. It's behind Leblon and Ipanema and a very nice area for kids. You can rent bikes and skates and there are several playgrounds around the lake."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas (Lagoon), Avenida Epitacio Pessoa and Avenida Borges de Medeiros

Spot some Amazon critters without trekking into the rainforest. "Rio's city zoo, the **Jardim Zoológico**, is inexpensive to get into and has a lot of fun for kids of all ages."—TripAdvisor Member

Jardim Zoologico, Parque Quinta da Boa Vista s/n, Sao Cristovao, 21 3878 4200

Leblon "is more serene and somewhat more upscale than Ipanema, and the beach is more family-oriented." The Baixo Baby kiosk has toys for tots.—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Leblon Beach, Avenida Delfim Moreira



ROMANCE

"There are several **helicopter tour** route options, but all of them generally circle Corcovado and Sugar Loaf. On a clear day and near sunset, this is super romantic."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Helicopter tour, Helisight, 21 2511 2141

Removed from the main tourist drag of Zona Sul, the beautiful beaches of **Barra da Tijuca** are perfect for laid-back couples.

Barra da Tijuca

Feel the Brazilian rhythms at **Carioca da Gema**, "bohemian Lapa's favorite new haunt. Dance to top-notch live music with emphasis on sambas."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Carioca da Gema, Rua Mem de Sa 79, Lapa, 21 2221 0043

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

Highlights at the **National Fine Arts Museum** include 18th- and 19th-century Brazilian paintings and “a splendid collection of Brazilian landscapes by Frans Post.”—TripAdvisor Member, Margate, Fla.

National Fine Arts Museum (Museu Nacional de Belas Artes), Avenida Rio Branco 199, Centro, 21 2240 0068

Find souvenirs and “fairly priced art pieces” at the **Hippie Fair**. “All merchants were willing to bargain. Have fun, smile a lot and travel light. A great day.”—TripAdvisor Member, Calgary, Alberta

Hippie Fair Crafts Market, Praca General Osorio, Ipanema

There’s no charge for eye candy along **Copacabana Beach**. “It’s the greatest beach in the world: friendly people, beautiful sea, warm water and women in skimpy outfits. What more could you want?”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Copacabana Beach

“What more could you want?”



ADVENTURE

“**Tijuca National Park** offers several good trails for medium to difficult hikes. One of the most invigorating is to climb up Pedra da Gavea. It’s advisable to inquire about a local guide.”—TripAdvisor Member

Tijuca National Park, Praca Afonso Viseu, Alto da Boa Vista

Get a bird’s eye view of the sights while **hang gliding**. “The experience is really amazing. This is one of those things one should do at least once in a lifetime.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Hang gliding, Rio Hang Gliding, 21 9843 9006

“A bit outside of Rio and past Barra da Tijuca is **Prainha**, probably the most hard-core surfing beach.”—TripAdvisor Member

Surfing, Prainha, Avenida Sernambetiba

“...one of those things one should do at least once in a lifetime.”



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EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

The **Museum of the Republic**, once a presidential residence, “is fascinating if you are interested in modern Brazilian history. It has very ornate rooms and fine furnishings.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hickory, N.C.

Museum of the Republic (Museu da Republica), Rua do Catete 153, 21 3235 2650

Inaugurated in 1909, the **Teatro Municipal** is a stunning downtown theater filled with murals and mosaics. Guided tours are offered on weekdays, except Wednesday.

Teatro Municipal, Praca Floriano s/n, Centro, 21 2332 9195

“The **Lapa Arches** are beautiful, and you can watch the famous Santa Teresa bonde drive over the top of it, carrying loads of people everyday. They are located in Lapa, which is part of the old town. The cinematic old buildings come to life at night when the doors open and hundreds of people fill their beautiful rooms.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Lapa Arches (Arcos de Lapa), Largo Da Lapa Square

“The huge palm trees are majestic.”



RELAXATION

Skip out of town and spend a night or two in historical **Paraty**, founded in 1667. “It’s a treat to see a beautiful colonial town on the sea.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Paraty

“The grounds are magnificent” at **Jardim Botânico**. “The huge palm trees, which line the main walkways at the entrance, are majestic.”—TripAdvisor Member, Plano, Texas

Botanical Garden (Jardim Botânico), Rua Jardim Botânico 1008, 21 3874 1808

Take a cue from that legendary ‘girl’ and visit **Ipanema Beach**. “It’s a relaxed area and a bit safer than Copacabana.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Ipanema Beach

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



"**Gray Line** has comfortable buses, and their guides are quite friendly, multilingual and extremely knowledgeable about the areas their tour covers."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

The **yellow taxi** is in great supply and is the primary form of transportation for tourists. Rental cars are not recommended.

"A good way to see Rio is on **foot**."—TripAdvisor Member

WHERE to eat

Want more information on Rio de Janeiro? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Rio de Janeiro or any other destination you choose.



FAMILIES

"There are many 'per kilo' restaurants in Rio, but **Frontera** is of a different league: much better food, much more choice."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Frontera, Rua Visconde de Piraja 128, Ipanema, 21 3289 2350

Visit **Parque dos Patins**, a popular area for families "on the west side of the Lagoa," and grab a meal from "about half a dozen kiosks serving different kinds of food."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Food kiosks at Parque dos Patins, Avenida Borges de Medeiros s/n

"What a wonderful experience for our family to enjoy a great breakfast at **Gringo Cafe** as we celebrated our daughter's birthday. Definitely recommend the hash browns, and the bottomless cup of coffee - called American style but with the bold flavor of Brazilian coffee."—TripAdvisor Member, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Gringo Cafe, Rua Barao da Torre 240, Ipanema, 21 3813 3972

"...lovely and romantic."

ROMANCE

"We were really pleased we chose **Gula Gula**. The food and wine were really good. The surroundings are lovely and romantic and made the evening thoroughly enjoyable."—TripAdvisor Member

Gula Gula Ipanema, Rua Henrique Dumont 57, 21 2259 3084

"You will eat very well at **Careme**, a French bistro in Botafogo. Since there are only about a dozen tables, it's quite intimate."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Careme, Rua Visconde de Caravelas 113, Botafogo, 21 2537 2374

"The food at **Quadrucchi** is an Italian-Brazilian mix that one must experience. Sit on the front porch so you can take in the atmosphere of Rio."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Quadrucchi, Rua Dias Ferreira 233, 21 2512 4551

BUDGET

"**A Mineira** is an all-you-can-eat buffet, which includes salads, desserts and grilled meats. Definitely worth the 10-minute cab ride from Ipanema."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Restaurante A Mineira, Rua Visconde Silva 152, Humaíta, 21 2535 2835

Local supermarket chain **Zona Sul** serves some of the best pizza around. Plus, "you can choose a bottle of wine at supermarket price, and drink it on premises at a table near the pizza counter."—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Zona Sul, numerous locations in Ipanema and Copacabana, 21 2537 2374

Porcao Rio's is the "best place in Rio. The buffet was sumptuous, the meat flavorful and plentiful and the service outstanding. While it's not cheap, it's still a great value."—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Porcao Rio's, Av. Infante Dom Henrique s/n, Aterro do Flamengo, 21 3389 8989

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“**Sushi Leblon** was our favorite restaurant during our trip. The food always tasted fresh and delicious. The atmosphere was fantastic, and the service was very good.”—TripAdvisor Member

Sushi Leblon, Rua Dias Ferreira 256, Leblon, 21 2512 7830

At **Vegetariano Social Clube**, one of Rio’s few vegan restaurants, the menu changes to accommodate what is grown by the local organic farmers. “Good price and good food. I strongly recommend it!”—TripAdvisor Member, Rio De Janeiro

Vegetariano Social Clube, Conde de Bernadote, 26 Loja L, Leblon, 21 2294 5200

“Vegetarians shouldn’t miss **Celeiro**,” which won a local magazine poll for its salads. “It’s very, very good.”—TripAdvisor Member

Celeiro, Rua Dias Ferreira 199, Leblon, 21 2274 7843

“...the view is worth it.”

HIDDEN GEMS

“**Carlota** is a romantic spot” that’s easy to walk past. “They don’t take reservations, and the place is quite small, so get there before 9 P.M.” to avoid waiting.—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Carlota, Rua Dias Ferreira 64, Leblon, 21 2540 6821

Dombri Edo in the Everest Rio Hotel lobby “offers an all-you-can-eat sushi/sashimi menu with a good variety of fish, delivered to your table for a fixed price. It’s a popular place with young locals.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Dombri Edo Restaurant, Everest Rio Hotel, Rua Prudente de Moraes 1117, Ipanema, 21 2525 2200

“It’s not easy to get to **Aprazivel**, but the view is worth it.” Reserve ahead and “try the grilled fresh palm heart.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rio de Janeiro

Restaurante Aprazivel, Rua Aprazivel 62, Santa Teresa, 21 2508 9174

SPECIAL EVENTS



Shake and shimmy to the rhythms of **National Samba Day**, one big traveling party of dance running from Central do Brazil station to Oswaldo Cruz. (December 1)

National Samba Day, Various venues, 21 217 7632 (Tourism Office)

Feel the joy of the season at Copacabana Beach, where the **Parada Iluminada** lights up the air with glowing costumes, festive music and dancing. (December 18)

Parada Iluminada, Copacabana, <http://www.paradailuminada.com.br>

Remember to dress in traditional white garb for **New Year’s Eve** on Copacabana Beach, where the enormous party stretches along the entire beach, with multiple stages set for live music, DJs and dancing. The popular hotels along the beach also host their own balls and parties. (December 31)

New Year’s Eve, Copacabana, 21 217 7632 (Tourism Office)

Rio’s **Carnival** is the ultimate Carnival experience, the original great party. For four unforgettable days, costumed revelers take to the streets in a veritable orgy of dancing, feasting, color, music and frivolity. (February 18 – 21)

Carnival, Various venues, <http://ipanema.com/carnival>

Where to **STAY**



FAMILIES

"I highly recommend the **Windsor Excelsior Hotel** to anyone, with or without children. The staff was fantastic. They always assisted us with the children during breakfast, making them feel important. Whatever you needed in the room, you could call and they would deliver. Whatever they did, they did with a friendly attitude."—TripAdvisor Member

Windsor Excelsior Hotel, Av. Atlantica 1800, Copacabana, 21 2195 5800

"The **Arena Copacabana** is a modern hotel in a great location. The staff are all very welcoming, friendly and helpful. They really make every effort to make sure that guests have an enjoyable time."—TripAdvisor Member

Arena Copacabana Hotel, Av. Atlantica 2064, Copacabana, 21 3034 1501

"**Marina All Suites** rocks! The rooms, views, lobby café and staff confirm you made the right decision. Cross the street, and you're right in the middle of Leblon Beach, a family-type beach" with many amenities.—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Marina All Suites, Avenida Delfim Moreida 696, Leblon, 21 2244 1000

"Perfect for a romance!"



Have questions about Rio de Janeiro? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

"The staff at the **Hotel Santa Teresa** were simply wonderful! The hotel is located in an area that preserves the architecture of Old Rio and is elegantly decorated with beautiful pieces of Brazilian culture. Fantastic service, beautiful place, excellent restaurant. Perfect for a romance!"—TripAdvisor Member, Brazil

Hotel Santa Teresa, Rua Almirante Alexandrino 660, 21 2222 2755

"The rooms were a good size, with a balcony, at the **Rio Internacional Hotel**. There was a small pool to cool off after sunbathing. Staff was fantastic, helpful and polite."—TripAdvisor Member, Belfast, Ireland

Rio Internacional Hotel, Avenida Atlantica 1500, 21 2546 8000

"From the moment we entered the **Rio Guest House**, we felt at home. The view is unrivaled, and the apartment is stunning, with beautiful antique furniture. The hosts will really look after you and make sure you enjoy yourself in Rio."—TripAdvisor Member

Rio Guest House, Rua Francisco Sa 5, Apt. 1101, Copacabana, 21 2521 8568

"You can't get a better location for this price!"

BUDGET

"The hotel was clean and the staff was friendly at **Augusto's Copacabana Hotel**. Breakfast was included, and there was a small pool and Jacuzzi on the roof."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

Augusto's Copacabana Hotel, Rua Bolivar 119, 21 2547 1800

"You can't get a better location for this price! Views from the rooms at the **Best Western Sol Ipanema** are amazing, and the rooms have obviously been redone quite recently."—TripAdvisor Member, Houston, Texas

Best Western Sol Ipanema, Avenida Vieira Souto 320, 21 2525 2020

"The staff at the **Martinique Copa Hotel** could not have been nicer. It's extremely close to Copacabana and has many good dining options close by."—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Martinique Copa Hotel, Rua Sa Ferreira 30, 21 2195 5200

"...the total experience"

LUXURY

"If you want glamorous history and nice rooms, the **Copacabana Palace by Orient Express** is the place. Service was impeccable but unobtrusive, and every need was attended to."—TripAdvisor Member, Tucson, Ariz.

Copacabana Palace by Orient Express, Avenida Atlantica 1702, 21 2548 7070

"The **Sofitel** was wonderful! A great location, close to Ipanema and great shopping. The rooms are modern and clean. I would definitely recommend staying in a luxury room. The balconies are one of the best features—we had a wonderful view of Sugarloaf and all of Copacabana beach!"—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Sofitel Rio de Janeiro, Av. Atlantica 4240, Copacabana, 21 2525 1232

"There is no hotel in Rio that has the extraordinary style and location of the **Fasano Hotel**. Add the attentive, professional staff, the overall high level of quality service and accoutrements and the magical quality of Rio and Ipanema Beach. Everyone deserves the total experience at least once in their lives."—TripAdvisor Member, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hotel Fasano Rio de Janeiro, Av. Vieira Souto 80, 21 3202 4000

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

“The **Palladium** is located on a quiet, residential street, close to everything. The beach is just a couple of blocks away in one direction, while the livelier parts of Leblon are just as close in the other. The hotel itself is somewhat modern and well-appointed, yet understated. The staff is incredibly nice and helpful, and the breakfast was excellent.”—TripAdvisor Member

Promenade Palladium, Av. General Artigas 200, Leblon, 21 3171 7400

“The longer we stayed at **Um Meia Tres**, the less we wanted to leave. The hotel itself and the surroundings made me feel so relaxed. Within hours, I was as chilled out as I would have been in my own living room.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Um Meia Tres, Rua Aprazivel 163, Santa Teresa, 21 2232 0034

“**O Veleiro** is a designer’s dream, with a beautiful stone patio, hammocks and a lush tropical garden where monkeys, birds and a turtle visit. Run around Rio and return to this peaceful home.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tulsa, Okla.

O Veleiro Bed and Breakfast, Botafogo, 21 2554 8980

“...a designer’s dream”

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