



LEGENDARY RIO DE JANEIRO

PanAmerican Travel Services designs customized itineraries to Rio de Janeiro and many other parts of Brazil. We arrange lodging, transportation, and privately-guided tours and excursions. The following itinerary is presented to provide some ideas. For your travel plan, contact PanAmerican at 800.364.4359.

Day 1: Arrive in spectacular Rio de Janeiro. Transfer to selected hotel for three nights' accommodation. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure to stroll one of the famous beaches or Atlantica Avenue. At sunset, ride the cable car to the top of the Sugar Loaf, the massive granite monolith jutting 1,300 feet above Guanabara Bay.

Day 2: Today you will be escorted on a full-day tour of Rio. First, you will journey by train through the 8,000 acre Tijuca Forest to the summit of Corcovado Mountain, which is crowned by the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer. From this perch, you will enjoy glorious views of the city and its bays. Afterward, you will experience traditional Brazilian cuisine at a fine churrascaria. Then explore the city and its monuments.



Day 3: This morning you will embark on a cruise to the islands of the Sepetiba Bay on a vintage schooner. Swim in the clear waters of the bay and bask in the sun for hours on end. In the evening, return to Rio and experience the city's best nightlife at a local Samba club.

Day 4: After breakfast, transfer to the airport for a flight to your next destination.

Notes: Rio is a city to be visited all year round. Weather is temperate, even during the cool months of July and August. However, September and October tend to be foggy, making it difficult to see the city from Sugarloaf and Corcovado. In keeping with the Carioca sense of informality, you can dress casually day or night.

BEYOND RIO: PETROPOLIS, BÚZIOS AND PARATY

Although Rio has enough to offer any traveler, its surrounding areas have more than enough appeal to tempt you away for a day or two. Imperial treasure, eco adventures, soft beaches and colonial charm are within your reach. These sites can be visited as full day excursions, but overnight stays are recommended.

Set in the foothills of the Orgãos Mountains about an hour north of Rio, Petropolis dated back to the mid 19th century, when Emperor Dom Pedro II had a summer palace constructed here. Today, the palace serves as the Imperial Museum and is home to the imperial jewels. Just outside of town, the Serra dos Orgãos National Park offers excellent hiking, whitewater rafting and rock climbing opportunities.



Búzios, a peninsula located 110 miles northeast of Rio, is arguably the most fashionable beach destination in Brazil. One visit and you'll understand why. The north side offers a cluster of charming small hotels, fine restaurants and stylish shops. Farther up the peninsula are the twin beaches of João Fernandes and João Fernandinho—perfect for swimming and people-watching. On the south side, Praia Ferradura is a stretch of white sand kissed by clear, gentle waves. For high season visits (March to December) accommodations should be booked at least six months in advance.

About 125 miles south of Rio, the colorful village of Paraty was once an important exporter of gold and gems. Paraty is now national historic monument known for its colonial churches, cobbled streets, and hillside fort. If you're staying overnight, you can spend your second day at one of the nearby beaches or hike to a waterfall before returning to Rio in the evening.

SÃO PAULO

From the air, Sao Paulo is unbelievable—an endless lawn of high-rise towers. On the ground, Brazil's largest city can be surprisingly accessible. The best strategy from approaching this metropolis of umpteens million residents is to choose a neighborhood and settle in. For short visits, hotel choice is determined by proximity to your departure airport—either the Congonhas for domestic flights or Guarulhos International.

For multi-day visits, the Paulista Avenue, Jardins and Parque Ibirapuera sectors are ideal; many of the city's best boutiques and museums, hip hotels and top restaurants are found here. For a respite from the trendiness, visit the humble church of Nossa Senhora do Brasil located near Ibirapuera. Inside, stained glass inscriptions urge hope and bird song fills the chapel.

If you aren't traveling during rush hours, you can reach the coastal area of Guarujá in about an hour. However, the best beaches are located another sixty miles to the northeast near Ubatuba and on Ilhabela and Ilha Anchieta. From this section of coast, it is a fairly quick trip to the charming port of Paraty.

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JERICOACOARA

Some of the best destinations in South America are unknown to most travelers—places blending natural beauty, pleasant remoteness, the promise of adventure and a friendly spirit. Although Brazil has several such locations, none are quite like Jericoacoara (pronounced *jhery-kwah-kwahra*—a name that rolls softly, and addictively off the tongue).

Jericoacoara (or simply Jeri) was a small, isolated fishing village until a few years ago, when the *Washington Post* declared it one of the ten best beaches in the world. Not long after, Brazilians themselves voted it the best beach in Brazil—a remarkable compliment. Although its secret is getting out, Jeri has an excellent chance of preserving its considerable charms; the surrounding area is a protected national park, development is rigidly restricted, and the fishermen aren't leaving.

Too special and too remote for a day trip, Jeri is located 200 miles northwest of Fortaleza. The last 25 miles of the journey can only be made by off-road vehicles capable of crossing sand. This distance is protective and filtering, eliminating day-trippers and visitors who don't share a sense of adventure. The overland journey is also useful as a method of decompression, erasing your cares and preparing you to enter a relaxed, palm-shaded oasis.

Jeri is bordered by powdery white dunes that spill down onto an endless golden coastline. The town's five streets are wide pathways of unpaved sand; shoes are pointless and even *Havaianas* are optional. Electricity was installed in the late 1990's. With few streetlights and no power-lines, you can still enjoy the stars. Many hotel rooms have neither clocks nor telephones.

With only about 1,500 inhabitants, the place becomes familiar quickly. But Jeri is no mere backwater. A surprising percentage of population is composed of Europeans. Many of the best hotels, pousadas and restaurants are owned and managed by friendly expat Italians and Swiss. The visitors are similarly diverse; Italian, German, Portuguese, Spanish and Dutch can all be heard around town. The only group that seems to be missing is the Americans. Many of these foreigners are drawn by world class wind and kite surfing conditions. All skill levels are welcome; the town has several wave sport schools offering lessons and encouragement.

Days slip by here. In the morning, when the tide is low, the beach stretches out like a wide mirror and the waves are calm. During the day, you can relax by the shore, take dune buggy excursions to freshwater lagoons, walk to the natural rock arch at Pedra Furada beach, or play in the surf. At dusk, it is tradition to climb the high dune on the west of town, Mirante do Pôr do Sol, where couples watch the sunset and local kids sand-surf the seaside slope. In the evening, the beach restaurants offer low-key live music and *capoeira* performances.

Jeri has distinct seasons of weather and tourism. Although temperatures are a constant 70 to 95 degrees year-round (with an average of 81 degrees), the rainy season (January through March) is more humid. New Year and Carnival are the busiest times, when city-dwelling Brazilians escape their home town parties to relax here. October through December offer the best conditions for wave sports. Throughout the year, the water temperature is perfect.

