



Places to visit in Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

Beautiful Views

1. Corcovado

Perched atop the 710 meter (2,330 feet) high peak of Corcovado Peak, the statue of “Cristo Redentor” stands with arms outstretched, gazing serenely out over the city. Construction of the statue began in 1922 during the heyday of the Art Deco movement, and the concrete and soapstone statue is considered the largest statue designed in the genre in the world. Most visitors take a vertical cog train to reach the base of the summit. From there, visitors to the monument once had to climb hundreds of steps to reach the top. Today, elevators and escalators are available to shorten the trip.



2. Sugarloaf Mountain

Rising 400 meters (1,300 feet) above the mouth of Guanabara Bay, Sugarloaf mountain is a monolith of quartz and granite that visitors can crest via a glass-walled cable car known as a “bondinho” or “teleférico.” The cable car departs every 20 minutes from the base of Babilônia hill and climbs to the top of the Morro da Urca hill. From there, visitors can take a second cable car up to the mountain’s summit.



3. Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon

The “Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas” is a favorite spot for joggers and cyclists. Open-air cafés and restaurants along the shore offer stunning views of the lagoon and the beaches beyond. The “Espaço Lagoon “ (Av. Borges de Medeiros) is a nice place where you can find several nice restaurants. Mainly at night it is a mandatory place to visit and enjoy the magnetic view of the lagoon.



4. Maracanã Stadium

Football (or soccer) is by far the most important sport in Brazil and the Maracanã Stadium is one of Rio’s most important landmarks. Currently it is able to seat 80,000 spectators making it the largest stadium in South America. You can visit the stadium and the Football Museum.



5. Tijuca Nacional Park

One of the largest urban forest in the world, the Tijuca National Park covers a huge area of a mostly mountainous landscape. Visitors can hike to Rio’s highest peak, the Pico da Tijuca, to enjoy expansive views of Guanabara Bay and the city below. Nearly destroyed in the early 1800s by encroaching coffee





Places to visit in Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

plantations, much of the forest was replanted by hand in the latter half of the century with as many as nine million trees. Attractions include the Mayrink Chapel, which has murals painted by the famed Brazilian neo-realism painter Cândido Portinari, and the tumbling 100-foot Cascatinha Waterfall.

6. Jardim Botânico

Located to the west of the Lagoon neighborhood, the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden, or "Jardim Botânico", houses more than 8,000 species of plants. Built in the early 1800s, the garden features many mature specimens, including avenues of towering palm trees. Visitors flock to the park to view the 600 species of orchids. The garden includes a number of monuments, fountains and features, including a Japanese garden, a pond filled with water lilies and the new Environment Museum" "(Museu do Meio Ambiente), which displays exhibits that focus on the environment.



7. Copacabana Beach

Separated from Ipanema to the west by surfer-favored Arpoador beach, Copacabana has a more active vibe than its equally famous neighbor. Rio locals, called "cariocas," always seem to have a game of soccer or volleyball in play, and vendors vociferously hawk their drinks and snacks from the kiosks that line the beach (do not miss a stay in one of the kiosks). Fort Copacabana, a military base with a wartime museum that is open to the public, stands at one end of the beach. On the length of beach fronting the fort, fishermen offer up their morning catch for sale. Visitors and cariocas alike love to stroll along the promenade that borders the 4 km (2.5 mile) long beach. Originally built in the 1930s, the walkway features a wave-like design laid out in black and white stones.



8. Ipanema Beach

The beach made famous in the bossa nova song "The Girl from Ipanema" in the 1960s remains one of Rio's most popular tourist spots today. A long, arcing expanse of soft white sand and rolling waves, Ipanema routinely reaches the top of the "Best Beaches in the World" lists year after year. The beach is bordered by a well-organized grid of shops, cafés and restaurants as well as an array of art galleries, theaters and clubs. Located in the upscale South Zone, or "Zona Sul", Ipanema lies between the beaches of Copacabana and Leblon. Posts or "postos" mark off the beach into sections, and different types of people tend to congregate in each area. Do not miss a "picanha" dinner in the "Garota de Ipanema" or "Bar do Vinicius" restaurants.





Places to visit in Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

Historic Places & Museums

9. National Museum

Founded in 1818 by King John VI of Portugal, it was transferred to the old Imperial Palace of the Quinta da Boa Vista in 1892. It was created to stimulate scientific research in Brazil, which until then was an immense and wild colony, practically unexplored by science. Initially the Museum sheltered botanical and animal specimens, especially birds, what caused the old building where it was located in center of Rio de Janeiro, to be known by the population as the "House of the Birds".

The Museum shelters one of the largest exhibits of the Americas, consisting of animals, insects, minerals, aboriginal collections of utensils, Egyptians mummies and South American archaeological artifacts, meteorites, fossils and many other findings



10. National Historical Museum

The National Historical Museum of Brazil (Portuguese: Museu Histórico Nacional), was created in 1922, and possesses over 287,000 items, among of which the largest numismatic collection of Latin America. The architectural complex that houses the museum was built in 1603 as the St James of Mercy Fort; earlier structures date back to 1567, erected by order of King Sebastian I of Portugal. In 1693, the Calaboose Prison, for slaves, was built. In 1762, the Casa do Trem was added as a depot of weapons and ammunition. The last additions are the War Arsenal (1764) and the Barracks (1835). The museum library alone has over 57,000 titles, many dating back as far as the 15th century, and 50,000 documents and photographs.



11. Museum of Modern Art (Portuguese: Museu de Arte Moderna)

The Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro (MAM), located in northeastern Flamengo Park, is in the Centro district, west of Santos Dumont Airport, on Guanabara Bay. Contemporary of the artistic movements that have shaken the country since 1950, MAM saw the birth, launching and release of much of modern and contemporary artists who now populate the international art circuit. It is a place for reflection, debate and objections after the leaden years of military dictatorship. It holds a collection of visual arts, film and documents, including the arts collection of Gilberto Chateaubriand, with about 4,000 items, and the photograph collection of the diplomat Joaquim Paiva, both deposited on loan.





Places to visit in Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

12. Museu de Arte do Rio - MAR

The Museu de Arte do Rio (aka MAR) is Rio's newest art museum. MAR's dazzling mix of architectural design styles means that there is plenty to look at before you've even got through the doors. One half of the museum is a modern building featuring white pillars, frosted green glass and clean lines. The other half is the Palacete Dom João VI, built in 1916 with a more classic, traditional style. These two main buildings are linked by the wave-like concrete canopy that is supported by more white pillars. After

purchasing tickets, visitors take a lift to the top floor of the modern building and are instantly treated to wonderful views of Rio's Port district, Guanabara Bay and the massive Rio-Niterói Bridge which spans it. From there visitors descend an elegant staircase and then travel through a 2001 style walkway, into the older building which is houses the exhibition spaces.



13. National Museum of Fine Arts (Portuguese: Museu Nacional de Belas Artes)

The Museu Nacional de Belas Artes or MNBA (National Museum of Fine Arts) is one of the most important arts and culture institutions in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil. With over 70,000 pieces in its fine arts collection and 19,000 titles in its library, it hosts some of the most important and exquisite collections of Brazilian art. Located in Centro, across from Cinelândia, the MNBA is a landmark in the cultural history of Brazil. Established in 1937 and inaugurated a year later, the museum owes its rich compilation to a large portion of European Art that was brought over to Brazil by John VI of Portugal in 1808. The collection was greatly added to after the founding of the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts in 1826 by the French Artistic mission that forever changed the arts in Brazil. The museum also became the benefactor of the collection of the National School of Fine Arts.



14. Carmen Miranda Museum

The Carmen Miranda Museum at Parque do Flamengo, in Rio de Janeiro, has over 3,500 items which help pay a tribute to the singer and actress Carmen Miranda (Feb.9, 1909-Aug.5, 1955). About 200 items are on display. A great part of the museum collection is available for research upon request. Roughly 460 of the items in the collection are garments and accessories. You'll see some of the famous platform shoes five-foot tall Carmen (known as the Pequena Notável, or the "Notable Little One") wore throughout her career.





Places to visit in Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

15. Catete Palace (Portuguese: Palácio do Catete)

The Catete Palace is an urban mansion in Rio de Janeiro's Catete neighborhood. The property stretches from Rua do Catete (Catete Street) to Praia do Flamengo (Flamengo Beach). Construction began in 1858 and ended in 1867. From 1894 to 1960, it was Brazil's presidential palace and the site of Getúlio Vargas' suicide. It now houses the Museu da República (Republic Museum) and a theatre. The Catete underground rail station is adjacent.



16. Historical Museum of the Army and Copacabana Fort

Inaugurated in 1914, at the promontory of the little church Our Lady of Copacabana, with the aim of strengthening the defense of Guanabara Bay. Occupying a total area of 114, 169 m², Fort Copacabana was at that time considered the most modern Fortification in South America. With its powerful cannons of 305 mm, 190 mm and 75 mm, from the German Krupp factory, it participated in several historical events, of which the most notable being the epic of “Dezoito do Forte”, on July 5th, 1922. In 1987, the Coast Artillery Batteries were abolished, and the Army History Museum was created, establishing itself as a center for memory preservation of the Brazilian Army and a unique place of leisure in the touristic/cultural arena within Rio de Janeiro City. On the Porch we can observe the Coat of Arms of the Republic and the name Copacabana Fort, designation of military unit in the date of its construction.



17. Bank of Brasil Cultural Centre (Portuguese: Centro Cultural do Banco do Brasil)

The CCBB is a cultural organization of the Banco do Brasil that began in 1986. It opened in Rio de Janeiro in 1989, Brasília in 2000, and São Paulo in 2001. It's three centers are among the top hundred most visited art museums in the world. CCBB in Rio de Janeiro is hosted in an art-deco building designed by Francisco Joaquim Bethencourt da Silva in the Rio's financial area of Centro and it contains theatres, cinemas, and multiple art galleries.



18. Municipal Theatre

The Teatro Municipal (Municipal Theatre) of Rio de Janeiro is located in Cinelândia (Praça Marechal Floriano) in the city center of downtown Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Built in the beginning of the twentieth century, it is one of the most beautiful and important theatre in the country. The Municipal theatre had its heyday in the first half of twentieth century, a time when theatrical activity in the





Places to visit in Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

then capital of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, was very intense and had a major impact on the cultural lives of the Carioca inhabitants. The Municipal theatre had a capacity for 1,739 viewers and featured performances by renowned symphony orchestras and operas. The theater was closed for restoration on October 19, 1975 and reopened a more modernized performance hall on March 15, 1978. Today the Municipal theatre in Rio de Janeiro features performances — mainly ballet and classical music productions.

Famous Churches

19. The Candelária Church (Portuguese: Igreja Nossa Senhora da Candelária)

This church is an important historical Roman Catholic church in the city of Rio de Janeiro. It was built and decorated during a long period, from 1775 to the late 19th century. The Candelária church is a Latin cross church with a dome over the transept. The nave has three aisles and a main chapel in the apse. The whole ensemble may have been inspired by the church at the Convent of Mafra, and in the Estrela Basílica of Lisbon, both in Portugal. The main façade shows Baroque influences in the design of the windows, doors, and towers, as well as Neoclassical influences in the bi-dimensionality of the façade and the triangular pediment. The façade contrasts the dark granite of windows, columns and other elements with whitewashed wall segments, a typical characteristic of colonial churches in Rio



20. São Francisco (Portuguese: Igreja de São Francisco da Penitência)

Located in the center of Rio de Janeiro, the Sao Francisco da Penitencia Church is one of the most awe-inspiring examples of the late Baroque architecture in the country of Brazil. It's also believed to hold more gold than any other church in the New World. The Church was actually considered completely finished in 1773, however it was inaugurated in 1736. Construction on the Sao Francisco da Penitencia Church was actually started over a hundred years before, in 1653. Disputes within the church and the Order led to many of the delays and interruptions during construction. Brazilians refer to the Church as the Igreja da Ordem Terceira de São Francisco da Penitencia or as the Church of the Venerable Order Third of San Francisco of the Penance. The Sao Francisco da Penitencia Church is located right next door to the Convent of San Antonio and tourists often mistake the Convent for the Church. In truth, these are two separate buildings. Together, they comprise a rather large Franciscan complex in downtown Rio de Janeiro on the mount of San Antonio. The Church was built on land that was originally donated by the monks of the Convent. The main chapel is entirely finished with gold engravings.





Places to visit in **Rio de Janeiro - Brazil**

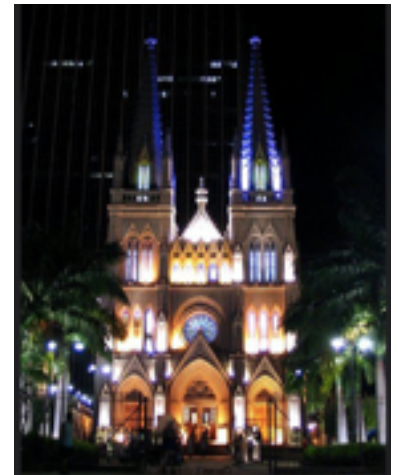
21. São Bento Monastery (Portuguese: Mosteiro de São Bento)

The Mosteiro de São Bento (St. Benedict Monastery) is a church located on the Morro de São Bento ("St. Benedict Hill") in downtown Rio de Janeiro. It stands as a primary example of Brazilian colonial architecture in the city and the country. It was founded by Benedictine monks who came from the state of Bahia in 1590. The monastery is still operational today, along with the Colégio de São Bento (St. Benedict School), the São Bento School (St. Benedict Seminary), with courses in theology and philosophy. The façade was part of the original Mannerist project and featured a centralized edifice with three archways at the entrance, as well as a triangular gable. Two towers crowned by pyramidal spires flanked the entryway. After passing through the entrance archway, the building houses a tiled porch and iron gates from the nineteenth century. The interior of the church is ornately covered in gold leaf gilding, a style popularized during the Baroque period of the seventeenth century and the Rococo period of the eighteenth century.



22. Presbyterian Cathedral (Portuguese: Catedral Presbiteriana)

The Presbyterian Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro is a historic congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil and it was opened on March 1874. It was the first Presbyterian church in the country. It used various sites until it acquired its current site in December 1870. The architect Ascanio Viana redesigned the building in a Neo-Gothic style. This work lasted about 14 years. It was several times renovated, the last was in 2002.



More information:

Rio Convention Bureau

Rio Official Guide

