



2024

Rio Rhythms: Your Plug to Rio de Janeiro for African and Afro-descendant Solo or Group Travelers

**CLASSIC RIO HIGHLIGHTS & AFRO-BRAZILIAN HERITAGE
(6 DAYS, 5 NIGHTS)**



NANASI

Hi Traveler!

I'm Priscilla from Nanasi, a Kenyan by origin and Brazilian by adoption. After 10 years living and traveling in Brazil, I'm excited to share a unique view of Brazil as seen through my African lens.

This guide is your passport to an unforgettable trip to save time and money. Here, you'll find valuable tips on how to prepare, essential contacts, afro-brazilian experiences, safety suggestions, budget tips, a 6-day itinerary and much more,

IMPORTANT: In this guide, click on the underlined text to be directed to a website or section where you can find more information.



Welcome to Rio!
Priscilla
@nanasitravels

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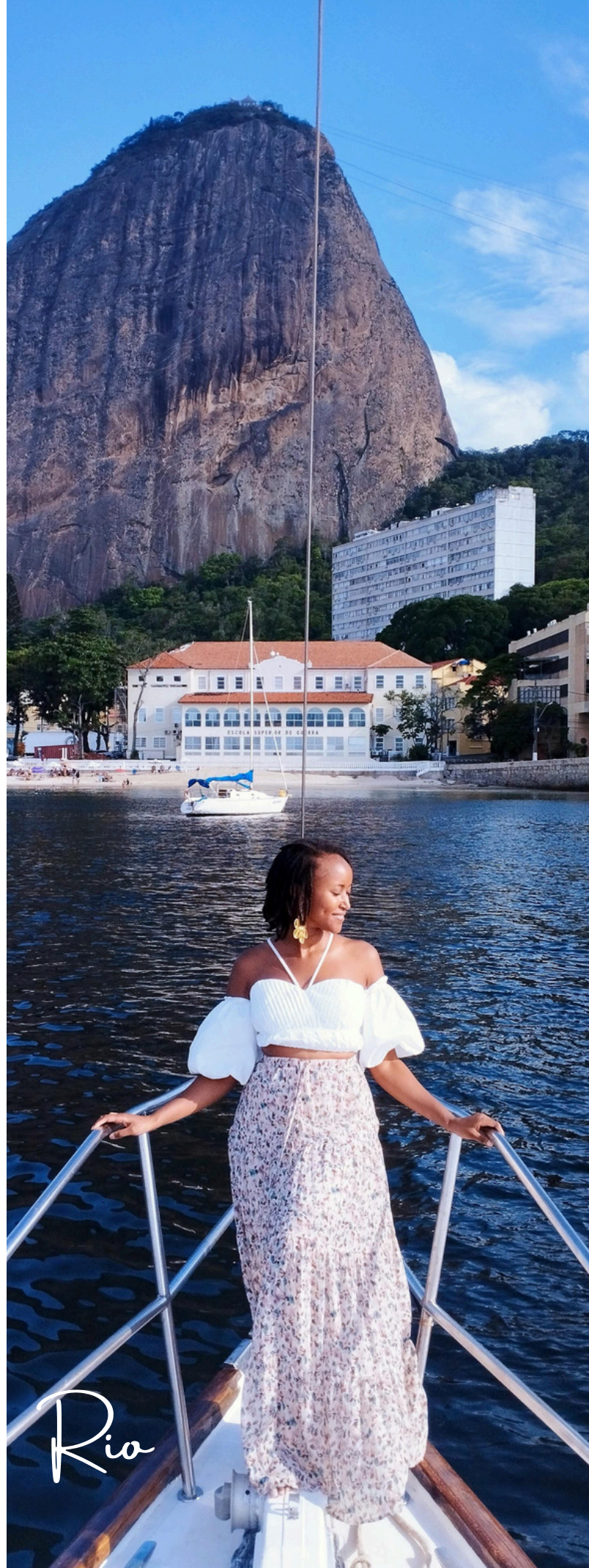
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Introduction

Why Visit Rio de Janeiro?

For African and Afro-descendant travelers, Rio welcomes you with open arms, offering a space where our shared history and vibrant presence comes alive. From the lively beats of samba that echo our own musical traditions to the rich Afro-Brazilian culture in neighborhoods like Madureira and Santa Teresa, Rio is a celebration of the African diaspora. You can feel the warmth of its people, and experience the powerful connection between our cultures. It's truly a culture and history that resonates deeply with our own heritage!





Introduction

When should I visit Rio de Janeiro?

Summer Time (December to March)

Rio is buzzing with energy! This is the peak tourist season with hot weather, lively beach scenes, and major events. Rio's Carnival usually falls in February or early March, offering an incredible cultural experience with parades, samba, and vibrant street parties. Being the most popular time to visit, expect higher prices and larger crowds.



Introduction

When should I visit Rio de Janeiro?

Shoulder Seasons (Mid-September to November and April to June)

During this seasons you'll find that Rio's weather is pleasantly mild and the city is a bit quieter, so you can really take your time exploring. It's perfect for checking out iconic spots like Sugarloaf Mountain and Christ the Redeemer without dealing with big crowds. Plus, you'll enjoy better rates on accommodation and flights, making your trip more budget-friendly. It's a great chance to experience Rio at a relaxed pace while still soaking up its vibrant culture. Expect a few occasional showers between April - June, though the weather is still pleasantly warm.



Introduction

When should I visit Rio de Janeiro?

Winter Time (June to Mid-September)

In Rio's winter, the weather is quite mild, with temperatures between 18°C and 25°C (64°F to 77°F). It's a comfortable time to explore the city and enjoy various cultural events. While it may be too cool for beach days, it's a great chance to experience Rio without the usual crowds. Plus, since it's the off-peak season, you can snag some great deals on accommodation and flights. We would suggest visiting Rio during this time **if it's not** your first time visiting the city.

Travel Preparation

African Passport Holders

Though some African passport holders are visa exempt, most of us will need to grab a tourist visa **before** we jet off. You'll need to visit the Brazilian embassy or consulate in your home country or country of residence and submit a few things which include: your passport, proof that you can cover your expenses, a return ticket, and sometimes an invitation letter if you're staying with friends or family. Make sure to start your visa process as soon as you can.



Use the website provided below to find out if you can enter Brazil visa free or you have to apply for a visa before traveling. You will also find all the information you need to apply for a visa if necessary. Also remember to keep an eye out for any updates or specific requirements—things can change:



[Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations](#)

Travel Preparation

Non - African Passport Holders

If you're planning a trip and hold a passport from **North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, or South America**, here's a general overview: Many travelers from North America, Europe, and South America usually don't need a visa for short visits. However, travelers from Asia and Australia typically need to arrange for a visa before their trip.



Use the website provided below to find out if you can enter Brazil visa free or you have to apply for a visa. You will also find all the information you need to apply for a visa if necessary. Also remember to keep an eye out for any updates or specific requirements—things can change:



[Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations](#)

Travel Preparation

• Financial Matters

Credit Cards

Using your credit card in Rio is very convenient because most shops and establishments accept this form of payment. Especially in places like Copacabana, Ipanema, and most restaurants and hotels. Also, check with your bank about those foreign transaction fees before you travel. Very few smaller spots and local markets might prefer cash, so it's good to carry a bit of both.



Cash

You can withdraw cash from ATMs right at the airport. But if that doesn't work out, no worries—the hotel staff can always point you to the nearest ATM. For exchanging currency, you'll find plenty of exchange agencies at the airport or in Ipanema, where you can easily swap your money for Brazilian Reais (BRL).

Travel Preparation

• Sim Cards

In Brazil, getting a SIM card as a foreigner can sometimes be tricky since most places require a CPF (Brazilian tax identification number) for the purchase. However, there's a great option for travelers! You can buy a SIM card without a CPF at Av. Nossa Senhora de Copacabana 664, loja 12, Copacabana.

➡ Here is the [address](#). When you visit, be sure to ask for the Claro service provider, which offers reliable coverage and affordable data plans.



Travel Preparation

• Luggage Essentials

Clothes and Outfits

When packing for Rio , think light and breezy! The city's tropical climate means you'll want comfortable clothes for warm days, so pack lightweight fabrics like cotton or linen. Casual outfits like shorts, t-shirts, and sundresses are perfect for exploring, and don't forget swimwear for those iconic beaches. If you're planning to visit religious or cultural sites, toss in a pair of long pants or a modest outfit.



For evenings out, a nice casual outfit will work just fine, as Rio's vibe is relaxed but stylish. And don't forget sunscreen! The sun can be intense, so bring a high-SPF sunscreen to protect your skin, along with sunglasses and a hat for extra sun protection. Lastly, comfortable walking shoes are a must for all the sightseeing.

Travel Preparation

• Luggage Essentials

Gadget Ready

Remember to pack your adapter, chargers, and a power bank for emergencies. Brazil primarily uses the Type N plug, which has three prongs, but you might also encounter Type C (two round prongs) and Type A (two flat prongs) plugs. The voltage can be either 110V or 220V depending on the area, so check your devices to make sure they're compatible.



Arriving & Getting Around

• Flights and Entry Points

Main Airport

When you land at Rio de Janeiro's Galeão International Airport (GIG), there are several options to get to your hotel. The most cost-effective yet comfortable option, consider the **Frescão (premium bus)**, which runs between the airport and key neighborhoods like Copacabana and Ipanema, leaving the airport, leaving every 30 minutes. Tickets can be bought at the bus terminal or directly from the driver. Prices range up to ~USD \$5.



For a quicker and more private ride, **Uber** is also available—just use the app to book and head to the designated pickup area outside the terminal. **Taxis** are another convenient option, and you can book them at the official taxi counters inside the airport. All options are safe, and it's best to compare prices before choosing.

Arriving & Getting Around

• Flights and Entry Points

Domestic Flights

Domestic flights are a practical option for exploring other parts of Brazil. Brazil is vast, so flying is often the quickest way to travel between major cities. From Rio's Santos Dumont Airport (SDU) or Galeão International Airport (GIG), you can easily fly to destinations like São Paulo & Salvador.

Airlines such as Go!, LATAM, and Azul operate frequent domestic flights.



Baggage policies on domestic flights may differ from international flights, so be sure to check the luggage allowances when booking.

Rent a Car

To rent a car in Rio, some of the best and most reliable car rental companies include: Localiza, Movida and Hertz.

Arriving & Getting Around

• Local Transport

MetrôRio - Subway

Getting around Rio is easier than you think. The MetrôRio is your go-to for a smooth and budget-friendly ride, with three lines connecting you to must-see spots like Copacabana, Ipanema, and downtown Rio. A single ride costs ~ USD \$1.20. It's super simple: grab a ticket at the stations (cash or card), we recommend arriving early to buy your tickets because of queues.



Buses

Buses are another option, costing about USD ~0.80 with routes all over the city. For a more comfortable ride, try the air-conditioned ones—but heads-up, buses can sometimes be fashionably late, so don't stress if you're waiting a bit longer.

Accomodation

Copacabana Hotels

Windsor Copa is your perfect spot if you're looking to be on Copacabana Beach and close to Ipanema Beach. The hotel's modern rooms are designed for comfort and style, and the rooftop pool offers a fantastic view of the beach below. Whether you want to explore local shops, enjoy the nightlife, or just relax by the sea, Windsor Copa is right in the heart of the action, making it a great choice for anyone who loves being in the thick of things.



Accomodation

Leme Hotels

If you're after a more laid-back vibe while still being close to the excitement, Windsor Leme OR Arena Leme in the charming Leme neighborhood might be just what you're looking for. Nestled away from the hustle and bustle, and offers stunning ocean views and a peaceful retreat after a day of adventures. It also has an outdoor pool. Plus, with Leme Beach just a short walk away, you get the best of both worlds – relaxation and easy access to everything Rio has to offer.



Service Providers

• Tour Guides

Etnias | Turismo & Cultura

Etnias Turismo specializes in providing immersive cultural experiences that showcase Afro-Brazilian heritage. They offer a variety of day and night 2 - 8 hour tours, including, classic Rio monuments, samba classes, visits to Madureira (the heart of Rio's Black culture), and the vibrant Little Africa tour. These tours are designed to help travelers connect deeply with local traditions and explore neighborhoods rich in Afro-Brazilian history.



Instagram:

[@etnias_turismo_e_cultura](https://www.instagram.com/etnias_turismo_e_cultura)

WhatsApp: +5521979495085

Website:

etnias_turismo_e_cultura.com

Their tour prices range from USD ~\$30 to USD ~\$300 per person, depending on the tour, the group size and whether you require private transport and want to include lunch/dinner.

Service Providers

• Tour Guides

Conectando Territorios

Conectando Territórios is all about giving you a chance to experience the real Brazil through the eyes of its traditional communities. Since 2013, Thais Rosa has been hosting incredible tours that let you dive deep into the culture, history, and everyday life of places like quilombos—villages founded by escaped enslaved Africans. On her quilombo tour, you'll meet the people, hear their stories, and witness how they've kept their powerful traditions alive.



Instagram:

[@conectandoterritorios](https://www.instagram.com/conectandoterritorios)

WhatsApp: +5521988980449

Her tour prices to quilombos start from USD ~ \$300 per person, depending on the group size and whether you require private transport and want to include lunch/dinner. She also offers a tour to Little Africa which is about USD ~\$32

Safety Tips

Ambulance

Health emergencies can happen, and Rio's public health system has ambulances (SAMU) on call. Dial 192 for an ambulance, but again, keep in mind the language barrier. It's always a good idea to have travel insurance, just in case you need private care, which tends to be faster. If you're staying at a hotel or Airbnb, ask the host for a list of nearby hospitals.



Police

Police in Rio are visible, especially in tourist areas, but communication can sometimes be tricky if you don't speak Portuguese. If you need assistance call 192 or approach them on the street. It's helpful to know a few basic phrases or have a translation app handy. Keep copies of your ID and important documents in case you're asked for them.

Safety Tips

Rio City

When walking around, especially in more touristy areas like Lapa or Copacabana, stay alert. Pickpocketing can happen, so keep your belongings secure and avoid wearing jewellery. If you're exploring at night, it's better to use taxis or ride-hailing apps like Uber, which are safe and affordable. Locals are friendly and helpful, but always trust your gut when it comes to safety. Have fun, but be mindful of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar areas.



Rio Beaches

Copacabana and Ipanema beach are iconic and busy, so always keep your things close or consider leaving valuables behind. If you want to swim, check if the water conditions are safe and stick to areas where locals are swimming. Petty theft can occur, so don't let your guard down while you're enjoying that coconut water!



ITINERARY

CLASSIC RIO + AFRO-BRAZILIAN HERITAGE

CLASSIC RIO + AFRO- BRAZILIAN HERITAGE

ITINERARY (6 DAYS, 5 NIGHTS)

This itinerary is ideal for those looking for the perfect combination of urban living, vibrant culture and breathtaking scenery.

For this itinerary, we recommend using the suggested host, Etnias Cultura e Turismo. The entrance fees mentioned are included in the price of their travel package.

However, we have included the prices here and how to pay for those who would like to visit some of the sites independently!

Priscilla

DAY 1: ARRIVAL - GALEÃO

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT › HOTEL

Transfer to your exquisite accommodation in Copacabana or Leme to rest in preparation for the adventure that awaits you.

➡ Hotel: [WINDSOR COPA HOTEL](#)

➡ Reviews: [TripAdvisor](#)

➡ Hotel: [ARENA LEME](#)

➡ Reviews: [TripAdvisor](#)

Remember to **verify check-in times** which could range from 12:00 - 15:00 depending on the hotel. Also, **See this MAP** to check out all the points you will visit tomorrow!

DAY 2: AFRO-BRAZILIAN CITY TOUR

(Approximately 4 hours)

Pequena África, or "Little Africa" - A neighbourhood that has played an essential role in Afro-Brazilian heritage. From the lively samba sounds to the captivating street art, it's a true celebration of Brazil's African roots.

Tours usually begin at 9:00 or 14:00. Arrange your tour with [Etnias Turismo e Cultura](#) or with Thaís from [Conectando Territorios](#).

DAY 3: CLASSIC CITY TOUR

(Approximately 8 hours)

- **Start Early with Christ the Redeemer**

This is one of Rio's most famous landmarks and can get crowded. Aim to arrive early in the morning to avoid long lines and take in the best views. **See the MAP** showing the different ways to get there.

- The most beautiful and fun way to get there: **Corcovado Train** USD ~\$22
- The best cost-benefit: Official van, leaving from **Copacabana or Largo do Machado** USD ~\$23
- The most economical way: Official van, leaving from the **Paineiras Visitors Center** (but it can be difficult to get an Uber to get you there) USD ~\$15
- The most practical and comfortable way: **Organized tours**

DAY 3: CLASSIC CITY TOUR

(Approximately 8 hours)

- **Head to the Dona Marta Viewpoint**

After Christ the Redeemer, drive to the Dona Marta Viewpoint (**See the MAP**).

This spot offers incredible views of Rio's skyline, and it's less crowded.

Please Note: When you take the train or Van to Christ the Redeemer, you have to go back to the point of departure using the same train or van. This means, visiting the Dona Marta Viewpoint right after Christ the Redeemer is only possible if you are on an organized tour.

DAY 3: CLASSIC CITY TOUR

(Approximately 8 hours)

- **Visit Lage Park for a Quick Break**

Once you're done at Dona Marta, head to Parque Lage, (**See the MAP**) which is nearby. It's a peaceful spot to rest your feet, and you can even grab a coffee at the café inside the beautiful mansion in the park. Take a quick stroll and enjoy the lush surroundings and beautiful architecture.

DAY 3: CLASSIC CITY TOUR

(Approximately 8 hours)

- **Maracanã Stadium for an External Visit**

Next, head to Maracanã Stadium for an external visit. You can admire the iconic stadium from the outside and take some photos.

- **Selarón Stairs for Some Colorful Fun**

The Selarón Stairs (**See the MAP**) are a must-see, and they're located near the Santa Teresa neighborhood. Spend some time soaking in the vibrant artwork and grab a few photos at this colorful hotspot. From Maracanã, it's an easy Uber or Taxi ride to the stairs.

DAY 3: CLASSIC CITY TOUR

(Approximately 8 hours)

- **End Your Day at Saint Sebastian Cathedral**

Cap off your day with a visit to the stunning Saint Sebastian Cathedral (**See the MAP**), located in downtown Rio. Its modern, pyramid-like structure is an architectural marvel. From the Selarón Stairs, it's just a short ride away.

DAY 4: CARNIVAL EXPERIENCE

(Approximately 6 hours)

Experience the spectacular history of Brazilian Carnival. During this tour, immerse yourself in the infectious rhythms, rich history, vibrant costumes, and pulsating energy of Samba.

DAY 5: SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

(Approximately 4 hours)

Embark on a cable car ride to the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain. The cable car's transparent walls provided a 360-degree view, revealing the city's sprawling beaches, lush rainforests, and the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue standing tall on Corcovado Mountain. Get to witness the panoramic views and marvel at the city skyline. Following this, have a free afternoon to enjoy the rest of the day

DAY 6: HOTEL › GALEÃO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Transfer to Galeão International Airport
for departure

Your journey in Rio de Janeiro comes
to a close, however, the memories will
last a lifetime.

Till next time, Tchau!

The information provided is merely suggestive and does not
constitute a recommendation or endorsement. Visiting these
locations is the sole responsibility of the visitor.

How much does it cost to visit Rio de Janeiro?

Here at Nanasi, we suggest prices ranging between **USD ~\$1200 (budget option) and USD ~\$2500 (luxury option) per person sharing** for a comfortable 6-day trip, excluding flights. What is typically included in this price:

- Airport transfers
- All applicable point-point-transfers
- English-speaking tour guides
- 6 Days, 5 Nights, standard accommodation in Copacabana or Leme – Bed & Breakfast regime
- All applicable guide and activity fees
- All applicable local and government taxes

How much does it cost to visit Rio de Janeiro?

The cost of a trip to Brazil varies greatly and depends on several factors:

- Accommodation Type:
 - Budget Option: Includes more affordable stays like hostels or budget hotels.
 - Luxury Option: Offers premium hotels or private villas, providing more comfort and exclusive amenities.
- Transportation:
 - Budget Option: Public transportation or shared transfers are often used to save costs.
 - Luxury Option: Private transfers or higher-end transportation options like chauffeurs, which add convenience and flexibility.

How much does it cost to visit Rio de Janeiro?

The cost of a trip to Brazil varies greatly and depends on several factors:

- Meals:
 - Budget Option: Typically includes meals at local eateries or only breakfast at accommodations.
 - Luxury Option: May include gourmet dining experiences or all-inclusive meal plans for a more luxurious experience.
- Activities & Tours:
 - Budget Option: Group tours and standard experiences that are cost-effective but enjoyable.
 - Luxury Option: Private, tailor-made tours, and exclusive experiences for a more personalized adventure.

How much does it cost to visit Rio de Janeiro?

The cost of a trip to Brazil varies greatly and depends on several factors:

- Additional Services:
 - Budget Option: Fewer add-ons, with a focus on essential services.
 - Luxury Option: Extra services like spa treatments, personal guides, and concierge services for added comfort.
- This price variation allows you to choose between a more affordable, adventure-driven trip and a luxurious, tailored experience based on your travel preferences.

Obrigada!

Thank you for purchasing our Afro-centric guide!

We hope the information and tips included make your experience even more incredible and unforgettable. May your journey be filled with fascinating discoveries, memorable moments, and lots of joy.

Welcome to Brazil!
Bem-vindo ao Brasil!

Priscilla
[@nanasitravels](https://www.instagram.com/nanasitravels)



APPENDIX

The information provided is merely suggestive and does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement. Visiting these locations is the sole responsibility of the visitor.

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden

It's a lush, green sanctuary right at the base of Corcovado Mountain, offering a vibe that feels both relaxing and connected to nature. You'll find yourself surrounded by towering palm trees, tropical plants, and colorful flowers that make it the perfect spot to just chill and take in the beauty around you. Plus, the garden is full of little lakes and historical monuments, so whether you're here for the views or to grab some peaceful moments, it's worth adding to your Rio itinerary. Easiest way to get here is via Uber.

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Pedra do Sal

A historical site with strong Afro-Brazilian roots, Pedra do Sal is known as the birthplace of samba. It's more than a destination—it's an experience. You can choose to enjoy an afternoon at one of the many quaint restaurants in the area. Also, The street parties here connect directly to African culture with music and dance. The easiest way to get here is via Uber.

➔ Check out what events will be happening on their [Instagram Page](#).

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Museum of Tomorrow (Museu do Amanhã)

This futuristic museum is not just about technology but also explores global interconnectedness. It's a thought-provoking and visually stunning experience. It's open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 10 AM to 6 PM (last entry at 5 PM), including holidays.

➔ To get there, you can take the subway from the Cardeal Arcoverde Station in Copacabana to the Uruguaiana station in the city center. The museum is a short walk from there. And if you are going via Uber this is the Museums address.

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR)

Located right next to the Museum of Tomorrow, this museum offers powerful exhibitions on Brazilian history, and contemporary art. African travelers will enjoy the connection to African art traditions and social justice themes.

Your paragraph text

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Rio Star & The Olympic Boulevard

These attractions are right next to the Museum of Tomorrow. The Rio Star, is one of Latin America's largest Ferris wheel, offers panoramic views of the city. Nearby, the Olympic Boulevard is a vibrant area showcasing Rio's recent history and culture with stunning murals and interactive displays.

➔ See this MAP to find out how you can walk from the Museum of tomorrow, through the Olympic Boulevard and arrive at Rio Star.

Your paragraph text

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Viaduto Madureira (Madureira Viaduct)

In the heart of Madureira, the neighbourhood which boasts the largest Black population in Rio, this viaduct is a key urban landmark and the best way to get here is via Uber. The surrounding area is known for its vibrant Afro-Brazilian culture and history. Here you can either:

➔ Arrange a day tour with Etnias Turismo e Cultura to learn more about the neighbourhood.

➔ Attend one of the “bailes” - Brazilian street parties that frequently happen here. Keep an eye on their Instagram page to find out when the next one is!

Your paragraph text

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Tijuca National Park

One of the world's largest urban forests, this park offers hiking and nature exploration with stunning views of Rio. Those who love the outdoors can get here via Uber and will feel refreshed by the connection to nature. Trails include:

Pedra Bonita - 1.5 km and 1-2 hours

Gulhinha da Gávea - 1.5 km and 1-1.5 hours

Trilha dos Estudantes - 3 km and 1.5 - 2 hours

Caminho Dom Pedro Augusto - 5 km and 2-3 hours

Pedra da Gávea - 7km and 2.5 - 3.5 hours

Circuito dos Picos - 8 km and 3-4 hours

Your paragraph text

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Rio Sunset Sailing Tour

Embark on a memorable sunset tour starting in the afternoon at Marina da Glória. As you make your way back, you'll be treated to an incredible view of the sunset. Throughout the tour, you'll enjoy iconic sights like Sugarloaf Mountain and Christ the Redeemer on the horizon. The tour concludes in the early evening, ensuring you catch the full splendor of Rio's sunset.

Click on ➔ this Link to find out more about where the tour starts, prices and how to book.

Your paragraph text

Places to Visit in Rio de Janeiro

➔ Hang Gliding and Paragliding

If you're seeking an exhilarating way to experience Rio de Janeiro, consider asa delta (hang gliding) and parapente (paragliding) adventures

Click on ➔ this Link to find out more about where the action happens, prices and how to book. Even though the service providers site is in portuguese you can get in touch via whatsapp or email in English.

Your paragraph text

AFRO-BRAZILIAN RESTAURANTS IN RIO

➔ Yaya Comidaria Pop Brasileira

- [Address](#)
- [Instagram Page](#)

➔ Afro Culinária Ancestral

- [Address](#)
- [Instagram Page](#)

➔ Dida Bar

- [Address](#)
- [Instagram Page](#)

➔ Kaza 123

- [Address](#)
- [Instagram Page](#)

➔ Casa Omolokum

- [Address](#)
- [Instagram Page](#)



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