

Suggested Itinerary: Carnival Package 2010 (6 Days/5 Nights)
Departure Date: Friday 12 Feb 2010
Quote No: 7464
Date: 21-Aug-2009
Prepared By: South America Tourism Office



Friday 12 February **Arrival in Rio de Janeiro**

Flight #	Departing	Economy Class
tba	Arriving	Rio de Janeiro

In the early 16th century, the Portuguese first arrived at the site where Rio de Janeiro now stands. What they found was a still-watered bay surrounded by a plentiful and lovely landscape. It was love at first sight. The Portuguese promptly built a fortress at the entrance of the bay to ward off those attracted to their tropical paradise, which they called Sao Sebastiao do Rio de Janeiro. By 1768 Rio had developed and grown to such an extent that the government was transferred from the previous capital, Salvador, Bahia. Rio was then, as now, a city of intensive trading activities. Its primary asset, Guanabara Bay was not just a beautiful landmark, but also a natural port through which the gold and diamonds, mined in the neighbouring Minas Gerais Mountains, flowed. The gems, used to adorn the ladies of the Portuguese Court, and the as yet rare sugar cane were important commodities in the European markets of this time.

When King Joao VI of Portugal landed in Rio in 1808 along with his court and entire entourage, he fell in love with what he saw and experienced, and subsequently helped Rio to become one of the most important political centres in Brazilian history.

Brazil achieved independence from Portugal in 1822 and became an empire. Some years later in 1889, the city of Rio enthusiastically witnessed the Proclamation of the Republic of Brazil. Rio de Janeiro has evolved continuously since, remaining a centre for business and the arts while becoming one of the world's most dynamic cities.



***** PLEASE NOTE: Australian passport holders require an TOURIST VISA in order to enter Brazil. This must be organised PRIOR to departure. *****

► **Arrival transfer** ◀

On arrival at Rio de Janeiro, our driver-guide will meet you and transfer you to your hotel. (Private driver guide service)

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

Please note that there is a Government tax for accommodation in Brazil that must be paid locally and varies between USD \$1.00-\$3.00 per room/per night (Tax varies between hotels).

Accommodation: Astoria Copacabana Hotel. Room: Double. Type: Standard. Bed: Double

Saturday 13 February **Rio de Janeiro (B)**

► **Half Day Tour visiting Corcovado Mountain and Christ the Redeemer** ◀ (*Tour requires a minimum of 2 pax to operate)



From any place of the city, visitors can see the most beautiful postcard of Rio de Janeiro: Christ the Redeemer statue on the mountain of Corcovado, located 710 meters above the sea level and inaugurated in 1931.

This tour begins in Cosme Velho's neighborhood from where the cog train starts a trip through the Tijuca Forest, the largest urban forest in the world, up to the statue. Once there, a breathtaking panoramic view of Rio will be seen. Sights include the Sugar Loaf, Guanabara Bay, the beaches of Southern Zone and the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon.

After the visit of the Corcovado, the tour will continue to São Conrado area with a brief stop at the Pepino beach from where you can appreciate the flight of the hang gliding. (Seat in coach service)

•Tour includes: Land transfers, bilingual guide & entrance fees. (Tour duration: 4 hours)

*Tour requires a minimum of 2 passengers to operate. If there is no one else confirmed for a specific date, a single supplement may apply.

Accommodation: Astoria Copacabana Hotel. Room: Double. Type: Standard. Bed: Double

► **Half Day Sugarloaf Mountain Tour** ◀ (*Tour requires a minimum of 2 pax to operate)

This tour begins through downtown Rio, passing by the Sambodrome, the Metropolitan Cathedral, in pyramid form, with internal diameter of 96 meters and height of 80 meters. Get to know the traditional Cinelândia Square with the historical buildings, the Municipal Theatre, the National Library and the National Museum of Fine Arts. By taking the Aterro do Flamengo, you will be taken to the neighbourhoods of Urca where it is located one of the largest symbols of the city: the Sugar Loaf. This visit is made in two steps by cable car. The first cable car takes passengers to Urca Hill, which is 215 meters high and from where one can have a beautiful view to the Guanabara Bay and its islands, the Rio-Niterói Bridge and Corcovado hill. From this stage, a second cable car will be taken up to the top with 395 meters to find a splendid view from Copacabana beach, the Santa Cruz fortress and some beaches of Niterói. (Seat in coach service)



• Tour includes: Land transfers, bilingual guide & entrance fees (Tour duration: 4 Hours)

*Tour requires a minimum of 2 passengers to operate. If there is no one else confirmed for a specific date, a single supplement may apply.

EVENING: ► Sambadrome Carnival Tickets (SECTOR 11) ◀

- Tonight you will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to the Sambadromo.
- You will then experience the once in a lifetime rush you can only get in Rio this time of year- the famous Samba Parade! While viewing the different Samba Schools pass by, you will cheer and dance the night away. • At the end of the night, you will meet your guide and be transferred back to your hotel.



Without a doubt, Carnival in Rio is the world's most famous party. While the city dances to the beat for days before it begins, official Carnival days are Saturday through Tuesday. During those days, little happens in Rio except Carnival revelry.

Parades are held at the Sambadromo, with bleaches, tables for four and private boxes lining the parade route. From the moment the first toe of the samba group steps over the line until the last heel crosses the finish line, only 60 minutes can pass or the group is penalized in judging. Each night averages 12 - 16 groups. Parades start around 7 PM and often don't end until the following morning. The best schools parade on Sunday and Monday evenings.

There are numerous Carnival balls, some of which are at private clubs for members only. Details on balls open to the public and-or foreign visitors are generally not made available until a month before. Entrance tickets are simply that - entrance only and do not include table or refreshments. Tables may be available for purchase at additional cost. Costumes are not a requirement except at certain balls - check when purchasing.

~~~~~ The Drummers' niche: ~~~~~

The drummers of every school stop, perform and play in the drummers' niche (between Sector 9 and 11) where the atmosphere is the most heated and intense. The front boxes in front of Sector 4 are located just opposite, offering the best acoustics and full view of their performance. Sector 11 also offers great acoustics and hot atmosphere.

**CARNIVAL PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Return regular transfers service from hotel to Sambadromo
  - Grand Stand ticket for the Sambadromo parade- SECTOR 9 (on selected day- subject to availability)
- \*\* Please note that all seats in Sector 9 (also known as the "tourist" sector, are numbered and allocated. \*\*
- \*\*\* ABOUT YOU IN RIO DURING CARNIVAL: \*\*\*

Do as the locals do: have fun, take nothing of value with you as you party, and be prepared for crowds. The ultimate experience of Carnival depends on you!

- SAFETY: The Sambadromo is considered to be the safest place in South America during Carnival time, due to the high concentration of international celebrities, politicians and royalty among the crowd. Security is extremely tight and as huge fences surround the Sambadromo, no one can enter without using the gates and being checked for commercial, safety and security reasons. All sectors are equally safe.
- CAMERAS: You are able to take digital cameras and video cameras to the Parade, however please note that professional style cameras will not be allowed in! Also, be warned - only take out your cameras after you have already checked in and entered the Sambadromo, as you must be careful with anything valuable outside the grounds.
- FOOD & BEVERAGE: Be prepared, as it is only fast food that is available in the Sambadromo. So we suggest having your dinner before setting off for the night. You could take plastic containers with beverages and some food such as sandwiches and fruits. Objects made of polystyrene; bottles, glasses, firecrackers and fireworks are forbidden.

\*\* PLEASE NOTE: \*\*\* Prices for carnival tickets are subject to confirmation. Tickets are not confirmed until fully paid and are non-refundable/non-transferable.

Accommodation: Astoria Copacabana Hotel. Room: Double. Type: Standard. Bed: Double

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**Monday 15 February Rio de Janeiro (B)**

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Day at leisure to relax after your big night at the Carnival parade!

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**Tuesday 16 February Rio de Janeiro (B)**

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At leisure to enjoy!

Remember, if you go to the beach; leave all your valuables in the hotel safe. Take only a towel, just like the locals!

Accommodation: Astoria Copacabana Hotel. Room: Double. Type: Standard. Bed: Double

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**Wednesday 17 February Depart Rio de Janeiro (B)**

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► **Departure transfer** ◀

Our driver guide will collect you from the hotel foyer and transfer you to the airport in Rio de Janeiro. (Private driver guide service)

**END OF SERVICES**

**LAND SERVICES: AUD \$1,853.00 p/ person based on Double room**

**Other Carnival Packages available:**

| <b>HOTEL:</b>                         | <b>PRICE FROM:</b>                               |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Royal Rio Palace      * * * * *       | \$2190.00 per person <i>(Standard Room)</i>      |
| Astoria Palace      * * * * *         | \$2305.00 per person <i>(Standard Room)</i>      |
| Portinari Design Hotel      * * * * * | \$2984.00 per person <i>(Deluxe Room)</i>        |
| JW Marriott      * * * * * *          | \$4047.00 per person <i>(Deluxe Atrium Room)</i> |
| Copacabana Palace      * * * * * *    | \$4955.50 per person <i>(City View Room)</i>     |

**Price is LAND ONLY, does not include airfares.**

**Land Package Includes:**

- Accommodation as per detailed itinerary above with private facilities and government taxes (GST).
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)
- Meeting and transfers with English speaking guides as per written itinerary.
- Comprehensive sightseeing and excursions with bilingual guide as per written itinerary.

**Not Included:**

- Visas
- Any tour or suggestion that are clearly an optional suggestion of what you can do during your trip.
- Personal spending including, drinks, telephone calls, tips, laundry and additional meals.

**\*\* Please note that this is only a quote and all prices are subject to services confirmation. \*\***

**5 Day/4 Night packages are also available!**

**Please enquire for these, as well as single and triple prices!**