Rio de Janeiro

➢ Sightseeing

Pão de Açúcar

This conical mountain vies with the Corcovado for the visitor's vote of best overall panoramic view. Originally called Pau-nh-Açquá (high, pointed peak) by the Tupi Indians, it was renamed Pão de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf) by the Portuguese, who thought the shape of the 394m (1,293ft) granite rock resembled moulds used to set sugar cane. Climbers frequently ascend the rock but the less strenuous and most popular route to the top is by two cable cars - a system that has been in operation since 1912. The present Italian-style cars complete the journey in two stages. The first leg of the ascent takes visitors from Praia Vermelha to a height of 220m (720ft) above sea level, stopping at the summit of Morro da Urca. The second leg completes the journey to the Sugar Loaf over a distance of 750m (2,460ft). The final stop offers fine views of the beaches, the city, the mountains of Tijuca National Park and the islands of Guanabara Bay. Just before sunset is the most dramatic time to arrive. The area also has several, safe, wooded trails, where it is possible to escape the majority of the tourists who frequently arrive at the summit.
**Cristo Redentor (Statue of Christ the Redeemer)**

The Statue of Christ the Redeemer, standing 30m (98ft) tall and overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro, is one of the tallest statues in the world. The statue represents Jesus standing with outstretched arms and is one of the most famous symbols of this lively city, and of Brazil. Developed by the engineer Heitor da Silva Costa and originally conceived in 1921, construction started in mid-1926 and was completed in 1931. The statue sits on top of Corcovado Mountain (Hunchback Mountain) located in Tijuca National Park, a popular area for picnics and walking. From the statue, there are superb views of Sugar Loaf Mountain, downtown Rio de Janeiro and Rio's beaches.

**Floresta da Tijuca**

Any visit to Brazil should include a guided Rio de Janeiro sightseeing trip to the Tijuca Forest. Whether you stop at the main sights by tour van, or take an all day hiking tour, you will have a very memorable outdoor experience.
**Maracanã Stadium**

Maracanã is the epicentre of Brazilian football and a mecca for sports fans from around the world. The Maracanã Stadium became the world’s biggest stadium, capable of holding around 200,000 people, when it was built to host the 1950 World Cup Final. It is now preparing to host the 2014 World Cup. Football is a national obsession in Brazil and even local matches are oversubscribed. Matches take place here up to three times a week, with evening kick-offs. The atmosphere in the stadium during games is unique to Rio and an experience to remember, with carnival-like bellowing, singing, jumping and dancing fans. The almost Colosseum-like surroundings serve as a fitting venue for a multitude of fireworks, colourful flags, banners and the sounds of samba drums and whistles. Tours of the stadium include a visit to the changing rooms, access to the stands for a view of the pitch and the opportunity to stand in the bronzed footprints of Pelé.

![Maracanã Stadium](image)

**Mosteiro de São Bento**

This old church offers everything for the visitor: interesting history, colonial architecture and a richly decorated interior. Located in the city centre, it was built in the early 17th century by Benedictine monks as a place for worship and study. The façade is simple yet pleasant, while the baroque interior abounds with gold and silver, from the wood carvings of the altar to the spiral columns. On Sundays at 10a, a special attraction: the celebration of a Gregorian chant mass.

![Mosteiro de São Bento](image)
**Historic City Center – Cinelândia**

Rio de Janeiro's historic city center is full of ethnic restaurants, Baroque churches, museums, and colonial era buildings. It’s a busy business center during the day, with a lot of foot traffic and activity. On a rainy day, tour the museums of National History, Fine Arts, and the Imperial Palace. Then enjoy a light meal or dessert at the famous and beautiful Confeiteria Columbo.

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**Convento Santo Antônio**

Easily the oldest church in Rio, Convento de Santo Antônio was finished in 1620, and was one of the most powerful religious centers in colonial times. It is known as "Saint Anthony of the rich," as opposed to "Saint Anthony of the poor," in another part of town. It consists of the convent itself and two churches. Inside the church of the Ordem Terceira de São Francisco da Penitência, the wood nave and ceiling frescos depict the glorification of St. Francis. Inside St. Anthony's, the marble and tile sacristy pictures the miracles he performed.
**Colombo Confeitaria**

Relax with a frothy coffee or tangy fruit cocktail and soak up the opulence at this antique coffee house and restaurant. The sprawling building is full of historic charm, and was the favored meeting point of carioca high society during Brazil's Belle Epoque. There's formal dining in the upstairs restaurant, light meals and snacks below and, front of house, a stand-up snack bar selling tasty sweet and savory pastries and expressos to office workers on the go.

**Escadaria Selaron**

The steps between Lapa and Santa Teresa have been turned into an ongoing work of art by eccentric Chilean artist Selarón. The artist has used painted and decorated tiles from across the world to create something truly unique - musicians such as Snoop Dogg and Pharell have shot promotional videos here.
**Lapa**

Lapa is located directly behind the city center and is associated with its famous aqueduct (Arcos da Lapa) on which the Tram (Bonde) runs up and back from the hillside neighborhood of Santa Teresa. Lapa is the location of many Samba and other music nightclubs and dance halls, and should be visited at night.

**South Zone – Beach**

**Leblon beach**

Leblon is one of the most attractive beaches and neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro. This virtual walking tour takes you from Rua Cupertino Durão, the street where the Lemon Spirit Hostel is located, to the west end of Leblon, where you can walk a little way up Avemida Niemeyer and see the whole beach from a lookout point.
**Ipanema beach**

This sophisticated Rio neighbourhood is an enticing blend of beach, bars and boutiques. The area became famous worldwide with the success of the song, *The Girl from Ipanema*. The song was written by composer Tom Jobim and lyricist and poet Vinicius de Moraes, who were inspired by a local beauty, who walked past the Velosa Bar each day when returning from school. The very bar where they sat, now known as Garota de Ipanema (Girl from Ipanema), is a popular meeting place for locals and a place of pilgrimage for visitors. The focus of Ipanema is the beach, which is nestled between Aproador and Leblon beaches, beneath the imposing peak of Pedro Dois Irmãos. Like Copacabana, many people visit Ipanema to exercise or lie on the sand and the Aproador is a popular sunset-watching spot. But shopping is also a major pastime and the area boasts a variety of fashionable and expensive outlets. Ipanema is also home to a Sunday arts and crafts market known as the Hippie Fair and workshop museums for jewellery shops Amsterdam Sauer and H Stern.

**Copacabana**

The 2.5 mile long beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is one of the most recognizable beaches in the world. Made famous by the nightclubs, casinos, and hotels in the 1950s - Copacabana Beach is lined from one end to the other with tourist class and luxury hotels, indoor and outdoor restaurants, bars, and nightclubs. Copacabana Beach is illuminated at night by very large lights, giving the entire scene a surreal look and feel.
**Leme beach**

The name given to the stretch of sand at the far end of Copacabana beach, Leme is quieter and less packed with tourists than the centre of the beach and the end that borders Aproador and Ipanema. Leme is handy for the Metro station at Cardeal Arcoverde, which runs into Centro, the Northzone, and the other end of Copacabana beach.

![Leme beach](image)

**Barra da Tijuca**

Barra is well-known for its beaches and its uncountable lakes. Barra da Tijuca is well-known for being the home of the Brazilian high society, celebrities, and soccer stars. Barra da Tijuca is divided into eight municipal districts (officially neighbourhoods): Barra da Tijuca, Recreio dos Bandeirantes, Vargem Pequena, Vargem Grande, Camorim, Grumari, Joá, and Itanhangá. It has a total of 27.3 km of oceanic beaches, the largest being Praia da Barra, which goes from the pier to the Pontal da Barra (Barra-Recreation Reserves), with 18 km in length.

![Barra da Tijuca](image)