



Brazil

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HISTORY

HISTORY



Brazil is the only Latin American nation that derives its language and culture from Portugal. The native inhabitants mostly consisted of the nomadic Tupí-Guaraní Indians. Adm. Pedro Álvares Cabral claimed the territory for Portugal in 1500. The early explorers brought back a wood that produced a red dye, pau-brasil, from which the land received its name. Portugal began colonization in 1532 and made the area a royal colony in 1549.

In the Beginning

The first human beings entered Brazil after 10,000 BC. They were hunter-gatherers. Among other animals they hunted manatees. They also fished in the rivers, and near the coasts they collected shellfish. The first Brazilians also collected plants. After 1,000 BC some people in Brazil were changing to a farming lifestyle. They practiced slash and burn agriculture. In other words they cut down vegetation then burned it. The ash was used as fertilizer. The Indians grew manioc, maize and sweet potatoes. Some Indians also cultivated cotton and tobacco. However after a few years the soil was exhausted so they moved on till the rainforest grew back. The farmers made baskets and pottery. They lived in simple wooden huts with thatched roofs and slept in hammocks. However some people in Brazil continued to live a hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

Pedro I

Pedro I, (born Oct. 12, 1798, Lisbon, Port.—died Sept. 24, 1834, Lisbon), founder of the Brazilian empire and first emperor of Brazil, from Dec. 1, 1822, to April 7, 1831, also reckoned as King Pedro (Peter) IV of Portugal. Generally known as Dom Pedro, he was the son of King John VI of Portugal. When Napoleon conquered Portugal in 1807, Pedro accompanied the royal family in its flight to Brazil. He remained there as regent when King John returned to Portugal in 1821. Pedro surrounded himself with ministers who counseled independence. When the Portuguese Cortês (Parliament), preferring colonial status for Brazil, demanded that Pedro return to Lisbon to “complete his political education,” he issued a declaration of Brazilian independence on Sept. 7, 1822. Within three months he was crowned emperor.

Monarchy Is Overthrown By A Military Coup

In 1889, Deodoro Da Fonseca led a coup to take over the government from the emperor. He changed the government to a republic ruled by a constitution. Over the years since, the country has been ruled by elected presidents as well as by military coups.



MONEY



The currency in Brazil is known as the real (pronounced "hey-al") and is marked by the R\$ sign. It has been the country's official currency since 1994, and new notes and coins were introduced in 2010 to help with security issues. The country does not accept other types of currency, so it's important to exchange money or take out local cash when visiting. There are six banknotes in Brazil, ranging from R\$2 to R\$100. There are also six coins, including a R\$1 coin.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in Brazil, with coverage on all the major networks. However, it's good to note that many small stores, cafes, markets, as well as spots outside of the city don't allow card payments, so it's important that you carry some cash.

Debit Cards

Brazil has a very extensive banking network and ATMs are widely accessible. The popular international credit and debit cards, such as VISA, MasterCard, Cirrus and Maestro are nationwide accepted.

Caminito Amigo

A large, ornate sign for 'Caminito Tango' is mounted on a building. The sign has a red background with a yellow central panel. At the top, three circular portraits of tango legends are displayed: Quinquela, Gardel, and Filiberto. The word 'CAMINITO' is written in large, stylized red letters with blue and green accents on the yellow background. Below it, the word 'TANGO' is written in blue letters. At the bottom, it says 'de: Juan de Dios Filiberto y Gabino Ceria Peñalosa' and '- Julio - 154-026-9907'.

A medium-sized ornate sign for 'Caminito Tango' is mounted on a building. It features a red background with a yellow central panel. A portrait of a tango legend is visible on the left. The word 'TANGO' is written in large, stylized white letters with blue and green accents. At the bottom, it says '- Julio - 154-026-9907'.

A small ornate sign for 'Caminito Tango' is mounted on a building. It features a red background with a yellow central panel. A portrait of a tango legend is visible on the left. The word 'TANGO' is written in large, stylized white letters with blue and green accents. At the bottom, it says '- Julio - 154-026-9907'.



Visitors From The USA

To use ATMs in Brazil, you'll need to have a four-digit PIN. Cards in Brazil have been exclusively chip and PIN for several years now, so you may run into trouble if you're from a country that hasn't fully adopted chip and PIN cards, like the US. If you only have a card with a magnetic strip, you should probably ask your bank for a chip and PIN card before you go to Brazil, just to be safe. For most Brazilian ATMs, the maximum withdrawal per transaction is 1,000 Real, though for some machines it may be even lower. After 10 p.m., the limit is reduced at many ATMs to only 500 real per withdrawal, so plan ahead if you're going to need cash late at night. You should always let your bank know when you're going to be travelling internationally, or you risk having your card shut off for suspicious activity. Call your bank before you go to Brazil, and tell them where you're going, when and for how long. You can also find out if your bank imposes a daily maximum for cash withdrawals on your card, and temporarily increase it if you need to for your trip.

ATMs

Nearly all banks have ATM facilities, some of which accept foreign credit and debit cards. Look for a respective label at the cash point machine. The permitted withdrawal amount per card per day is usually R\$ 1,000. After 10 p.m. the permitted amount is usually only 500 R\$ so keep this in mind if you have to withdraw a higher sum. Be careful if the withdrawal fails. Take the bank receipt if available, as sometimes your account is still charged although you actually do not receive any money. Also take a look if the machine appears to have any unusual devices which are used by criminals to copy banking card data. Use the cash points which are inside a building.

HELPFUL INFO

Climate

Brazil is a huge country and has different climates, although it can be divided into three main climatic regions: equatorial, with year-round rains (the Amazon Basin plus a small coastal area), tropical with a dry season, (the vast central area, plus a small northern portion), and finally almost Mediterranean, with temperate winters and hot summers (the extreme south). Northern Brazil is crossed by the Equator, so that south of the Equator, that is, in much of the country, the seasons are reversed in comparison with Europe or North America. In the tropical zone, the rainy season is almost always the austral summer.

Electricity

In Brazil the power sockets are of type C and N. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins. Plug type N is the plug which has two flat parallel pins and a grounding pin. Brazil operates on a 127/220-V supply voltage and 60-Hz. The power supply in Brazil is 127-V, however some of the newer hotels operate at 220-V.

ANO 1912



Technology & Communication

Brazil is a technically-advanced country and has sophisticated telecommunications, internet and broadcasting facilities. The fixed-line market has been privatized and the four main operators are Telesp, Telemar, Brasil Telecom and Embratel. It is very expensive to make international calls from a fixed-line phone in Brazil, and VoIP has become a popular alternative. Mobile phones are becoming much more popular than fixed-line telephones. Mobile phones mainly use the GSM system, and coverage varies in different parts of the country. The four biggest mobile phone companies in Brazil are Vivo, Claro, TIM Brasil and Oi. A number of companies offer combined VoIP, broadband and pay TV services, including TV Cidade and TVA. Brazil reportedly has the 10th largest number of internet users in the world, and there has been a major shift from dial-up to broadband services in recent years, with ADSL now accounting for nearly 80% of the broadband market.

Infrastructure & Transport

Brazilian primary transportation infrastructure faces many challenges. Brazil has over two-million-kilometres (one-million-miles) of roads and highways, but many of them are in need of repair – and only 210,000-kilometres (130,500-miles) are paved. In the main cities, road surfaces are sleek and well-maintained. The most common method of cargo transportation is in trucks via roads due to a limited rail network. Despite the existence of several rivers, waterways are rarely used, except in the Amazon region where rivers are usually the only way to access many isolated points. Railroads are few and noncompetitive. The use of trains for long distance transportation of passengers is restricted to a few urban tourist routes, while cargo transportation is mostly restricted to raw minerals.



In Case Of An Emergency

The main emergency number is 190 and connects to the military police. For Firefighters, call 193. To call an ambulance anywhere in Brazil dial 192. Try to speak slowly as English is not widely used and spoken in Brazil. The Serviço de Atendimento Móvel de Urgência (SAMU) is the publicly funded ambulance service of Brazil. It is available throughout the country and is free to all citizens. In Brazil, every state has two police forces: the Civil (Polícia Civil) and Military (Polícia Militar). The Military wear navy blue uniforms. Rio also has an unarmed Civil Guard, dressed in khaki.

Language

Portuguese is the first language of the vast majority of Brazilians, but numerous foreign words have expanded the national lexicon. The Portuguese language has undergone many transformations, both in the mother country and in its former colony, since it was first introduced into Brazil in the 16th century.



LGBT Travel

There is no legislation against homosexuality in Brazil. Same-sex marriage has been legal in Brazil since 2013, and LGBT couples have equal rights in law. Human rights are protected by the Brazilian Constitution, and Brazil is a signatory to international and regional agreements protecting LGBT rights. Name changes on official documents for transgender people are also provided for by law, although this right is not always applied consistently across the country. Rio is one of the most culturally diverse and open-minded cities in Brazil, and over the last two decades has morphed into a must-visit destination for LGBT travelers from around the globe. The Marvelous City frequently lands at the top of rankings of leading gay hot spots. With its laid-back and sexy vibe, flood of sculpted bodies in barely-there clothes, and vibrant nightlife, it's easy to understand why.

Religion

Brazil's religious landscape is as diverse as its ethnic and geographic diversity. Accordingly, the majority of Brazilians in the country identify as Roman Catholic (64.4%), thus reflecting its historical relationship with Portugal and the Catholic Church. Of the remaining population, 22.2% identify with a Protestant tradition, including Seventh Day Adventist, Assembly of God, Christian Congregation of Brazil, Universal Kingdom of God and other forms of Protestantism.



Getting There

Brazil's main international airports are Brasilia International, some 11-km south of Brasilia; Galeão, 20-km north of Rio de Janeiro and Guarulhos, 25-km northeast of São Paulo. There are smaller international airports at Recife, Natal, Fortaleza, Belém and Manaus. Brazil's national airlines Varig, TAM and Gol, operate routes to many cities throughout the world. There are road routes into Brazil from most neighbouring countries, with the main border crossings from Uruguay Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Guyana, linking to the main Brazilian cities. Long distance buses operate on the main road routes, linking most South American capitals, but the travel times and distances are very long. There are very few rail services into or within Brazil, apart from the "Trem da Morte", or "Death Train" from Bolivia. Brazil's main port is Rio de Janeiro. While this is used by many international cruise ships, there are few scheduled passenger services from this port.

Driving

Driving in Brazil is no easy feat and should never be underestimated. Due to the country's vast, geographic size, driving can be rather intimidating. However, the distances and varying landscapes are not the main reasons that might keep anyone from driving in Brazil. Rather that's due to Brazilian drivers and the road infrastructure. Drivers are not necessarily bad or aggressive, but their driving habits often differ significantly from what a European or North American expat might be used to. That is to say that most people drive impulsively and spontaneously, which is thought to be common in many Latin American countries. With more than 1.7-million-kilometers of roadways, Brazil boasts the largest road network in all of Latin America and the fourth largest in the world. However, the vast majority of roads are unpaved versus paved. Furthermore, the National Department of Transportation Infrastructure (DNIT) considers only 43% of the paved roads to be in good or excellent condition.

Foreigners are allowed to drive in Brazil for up to 180 days after entering the country if they have a valid driver's license from their home country. During this period you must carry your passport with you when you drive in addition to your license.

THE EXPERIENCE

Culture

The culture of Brazil is very diverse, due to the ethnic and cultural mixing that took place during the colonial period. Walking about in a Brazilian city, one's senses are thoroughly bombarded with cultural aspects which are uniquely and definitely Brazilian, though the acute observer can detect traces of cultural expressions stemming from Europe and Africa. These aspects include cuisine, music, dance, flora, fauna, sports, literature, architecture, and the ways of the people. Capoeira, for example, is a martial art, which was brought to Brazil directly from Angola and other African countries. To fool the plantation owners, African slaves played the berimbau, a unique African percussion instrument, and chanted while they practiced capoeira in the form of a dance. Today, capoeira is a classic Brazilian sport, practiced by both sexes, and continues to be accompanied by the berimbau and traditional chants.

Bucket List

Dive the Clear Waters of Bonito

Hang with locals at Copacabana Beach

Climb the 215 colorful Selaron Steps

Explore the incredible flora and fauna of the Amazon River and Rainforest

Check out a panoramic view of the city of Curitiba

Dance samba at Rio's world-famous carnival

Experience Hang Gliding in Rio de Janeiro

Family Travel Highlights

Hiking in Sugarloaf Mountain

Learning samba in Rio de Janeiro

Snorkelling amidst the tropical fish in the rivers of Bonito

Getting up close and soaked in the magnificent Iguazu Falls

Enjoying some traditional Bahian cuisine

Tourism Authority

The Brazilian Tourist Board (Embratur) is the specialist agency of the Brazilian Ministry of Tourism responsible for implementing National Tourism Policy. It was formed in 1966 and works exclusively in the areas of promotion, marketing, and marketing support for Brazilian tourist destinations, services and products in the international market. Embratur helps to generate social and economic development for the country by increasing the flow of international tourists to national destinations. For this purpose, it has the 'Aquarela Plan - International Tourism Marketing of Brazil' as the guideline for its action programmes.



Foods To Try

Moqueca

Brigadeiro

Coxinhas

Pão de Queijo

Farofa

Feijão Tropeiro

Açaí

Pastéis

Feijoada

Bolinho de Chuva

Beijinho de Coco

Vatapá

Bauru

Misto Quente

Drinks To Try

Cachaça

Caipirinha

Caldo de Cana

Guaraná

Chimarrão and Tererê

Xiboquinha

Cajuína



Photography Hot Spots

Arena Corinthians

Copacabana Beach

Corcovado peak - Cristo Redentor

Praia do Forte

Lago Paranoa

Centro de Arte Contemporânea Inhotim

Canoa Quebrada

Porto de Galinhas

Beto Carrero World

Novo Mercado Velho

Souvenirs To Buy

Cangas

Soapstone

Moqueca pot

Cantão

Olympic souvenirs

Pão de Mel

Bahian ladies

Brazilian swimwear

Gemstones

Beauty products

