

brazil fact file



brazilian embassy in uk	Website: www.brazil.org.uk Address: 32 Green Street, London W1K 7AT Telephone: (020) 7399 9000 Facsimile: (020) 7399 9100 Office Hours (GMT): Mon–Fri: 10.00-13.00 Email: info@brazil.org.uk
british embassy in brazil	Website: www.reinounido.org.br Address: Avenida das Nações Quadra, 801 conjunto K , Brasilia Telephone: +55 61 225 2710
area	8.5 million square kms
population	175 million Oct 2004
capital	Brasília
language	Portuguese (official)
tipping	Most restaurants add a 10% tip (service charge), however, some do not. Tipping is at your discretion The total tip should be about 10%.
bank opening hours	Monday - Friday 10:00-16:00
post office hours	Monday - Friday 08:00-18:00 and Saturday 08:00-12:00
office opening hours	Monday-Friday 09:00-18:00
shops opening hours	Monday-Friday 09:00-18:00 and Saturdays 09:00-13:00
time (+/- GMT)	The time in the parts of Brazil most popular with foreign visitors is 3 hours behind GMT. This is true of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Brasília, Bahia and Minas Gerais. Amazonas, Roraima, Rondônia, Pará, Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul are 4 hours behind GMT. Our trip is entirely in Brasília Zone.
electricity	In Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, the current is 110/220V. For most electric appliances Brazil uses a round two-pinned socket.
public holidays	Jan 1 - New Year, Apr 21 – Tiradentes, May 1 - Labour Day, Jul 29 - Independence Day, Sep 7 – Independence Day, Oct 12 – Our Lady of Aparecida (it is also celebrate Children's Day), Nov 2 – All Souls Day, Nov 15 – Proclamation of the Republic, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve, Dec 25 - Christmas Day
telephone	Phoning home from your hotel room is relatively expensive. Buy a phonecard (available from shops and kiosks) and a 5-minute call will cost less than \$10. Check with your hotel as you can often use phone cards in the hotel rather than at the street booths. You can use your mobile but you'll need to check with your service provider before departure that your phone is compatible. Internet is well developed and cheap – cyber cafes are common. Please check with your mobile phone provider if your network & contract enable you to have coverage in Brazil. Charity Challenge also has an emergency Satellite Phone available on all expeditions at a cost of £3 per minute.
photograph	Camera equipment is expensive in Brazil, but regular film rolls are cheap. Ask your guide for the best place to buy rolls. Spare batteries are a good idea. If your camera does not use 35mm film (APS for example) bring rolls with you.
currency	The Brazilian monetary unit is the Real (plural, Reais). There are 100 Centavos to the real (R\$). The exchange rate as of August 2009 is £1 = R\$2.62. For up to date currency exchange, go to www.xe.com . Sterling is less easy to change so if you plan to bring cash in small denominations, it is better to buy US dollar or Euros if not.
credit cards	Most major international credit cards are accepted in Brazil. Credit card receipts from stores and restaurants will be priced in Reais although you will be billed in the currency of your own country, the official exchange rate having been taken into consideration. There is also an extensive network of ATMs at which visitors can use their cash cards, although you should check with your bank before departure that your card can be used overseas & what the charge will be as UK cash cards are not always accepted by Brazilian cash machines, so it is wise to take sufficient funds in cash/travellers cheques. Credit card fraud can be a problem in Brazil. You should always ensure you retain your copy of the transaction slip.

travellers cheque	Travellers cheques are not widely accepted outside major cities so cash should also be taken but the best option is use credit cards at ATM machines.
passport/visa	UK passport holders do not require a visa to enter Brazil. However, passports must be valid for at least six months and a return ticket and proof of sufficient funds <u>may</u> be requested on arrival – a bank statement with evidence of around \$50 per day available & explaining that you are on an all inc to highlight why you do not need much money will be useful. Tourists will be admitted for a stay of up to 90 days, which is extendable, at the discretion of the Federal Police, for a further 90 days. Tourists are not permitted to work.
gifts and souvenirs	Lots of temptations – precious stones, coffee, hammocks, trendy Havaiana flip-flops (selling for £20 a pair in the UK and about £1 in Brazil), Cachaca (the alcoholic base of the national cocktail – Caipirinha), ceramics and jungle handicrafts.
duty free	Brazil's international airports are unusual in that they offer duty free goods on arrival and visitors, on presentation of their passport and ticket, will be allowed to purchase up to \$500 (approx. £360) worth of duty free products, including drink and tobacco.
vaccination and health	Nomad Travel Store Medical centre recommend: Courses or boosters usually advised: diphtheria; tetanus; hepatitis A; yellow fever (mainly for Western and Amazonian areas not visited on this trip so this is at your discretion). Vaccines sometimes advised: typhoid; hepatitis B; rabies; tuberculosis. A yellow fever certificate is required if within the three months prior to their arrival in Brazil, you have visited or been in transit through certain countries – please see www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk for details. Please note that yellow fever vaccinations take approximately 10 days to become effective. Malaria precautions are essential in Amazon regions all year round. There is very little risk in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Avoid mosquito bites by covering up with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers especially after sunset, using insect repellents on exposed skin and, when necessary, sleeping under a mosquito net. Check with your doctor or nurse about suitable antimalarial tablets. Also see Health notes.
risks	Crime levels are high, especially in major cities. Even in the more rural areas that you will visit, you should observe vigilance, especially when venturing out after dark, and should take local advice before going off the beaten track. The Brazilian style of driving and standards are very different from the United Kingdom. Be prepared to stop unexpectedly, and beware of potholes, slow moving vehicles, vehicles changing lane without indicating and going through red lights, and people/animals on the road.
hospitals/pharmacies	Brazil's major towns and cities have fairly good private hospitals and clinics and you should be able to find English-speaking doctors. In rural areas facilities can be basic so it is essential to take out Charity Challenge insurance policy before travelling in case evacuation is necessary. Pharmacies are well-stocked in the towns and cities.
water	It is not recommended to drink tap water or take ice. You will be provided with potable, drinking water throughout the expedition. Commercial bottled water and soft drinks are safe. Take care with fruit juice, particularly if water may have been added. Also see Health notes.
climate	Although 90% of Brazil is within the tropics, more than 60% of the population lives in areas where altitude, sea winds, or polar fronts moderate the temperature. There are five climatic regions in Brazil: equatorial, tropical, semi-arid, highland tropical and subtropical. Seasons in Brazil are the reverse of those in Northern Hemisphere: Spring: 22 September - 21 December; Summer: 22 December - 21 March; Autumn: 22 March - 21 June; Winter: 22 June to 21 September. See the Q&A's for your chosen expedition for more information.
do's & don'ts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Do put your money, passport and ticket in the safe deposit box of your hotel ? Do carry a photocopy of your passport on you at all times ? Do ask policemen for help if you need it ? Do avoid crowds and crushes ? Do act like a traveller rather than a tourist; learn a few words of Portuguese as efforts are really appreciated. ? Don't leave your bag unattended ? Don't put your wallet in your back pocket or the outside pocket of a bag ? Don't walk in unlit areas at night ? Don't wear flashy jewellery in the street, even if it is fake ? Don't take drugs or get involved with them ? Don't resist muggers, they often carry weapons