

Spotlight on Rio de Janeiro



HISTORY

Rio de Janeiro, meaning River of January in Portuguese, has an exciting, ancient history dating back to the 16th century. It was first discovered on January 1st, 1502 after being accidentally found by a captain by the name of Gaspar de Lemos who was a captain of a ship in Pedro Alvares Cabral's fleet. It is legend that they thought that the bay that they eventually named Guanabara Bay was a river.

Rio de Janeiro was formed from parts of the captaincies of São Tomé and São Vicente. Between 1555 and 1567 the territory was taken over by the French. The city of Rio de Janeiro was founded in 1565.

In the 17th century cattle and sugar cane generated progress and the port began to export the riches of Minas Gerais in the 18th century. The city became the capital of the viceroyalty in 1763. The region benefited greatly from the transfer of the Portuguese royal family to Brazil in 1808. In 1834 the city of Rio de Janeiro was transformed into a municipality, remaining the

Imperial capital, while the captaincy was made into a province, with its seat in Niterói. In 1889 the city became the capital of the Republic, and the province became a state. When the capital was moved to Brasília in 1960, the municipality of Rio de Janeiro was turned into the state of Guanabara.

In 1975 the states of Guanabara and Rio de Janeiro were merged to form the state of Rio de Janeiro, with the city of Rio de Janeiro as its capital.

DOCKING

The cruise ship docks at the city's commercial port, Pier Maua.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location of your tour. Your cruise line representative will direct you to your transportation.

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are located just to the right, outside the cruise ship terminal. Taxis are metered, but it is always best to discuss the fare before departing. Private cars are located straight ahead as you exit the cruise ship terminal.

SHOPPING

It is a fact that 90% of the world's gemstones come from Brazil. They include emeralds, aquamarines, amethysts, opals, topaz, rubellites and tourmalines. So, if you're in the market for fine jewelry, Rio is the place to shop. Guests are encouraged to purchase from a large and reputable dealer, Amsterdam Sauer.

SHOPPING/BANKING/POSTAL HOURS

Most shops and post offices are open from 9:00 am to 6:00 or 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday. Banks follow their own hours, which are usually 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through

Friday. Money exchanges generally open at 11:00 am.

TELEPHONES

Public telephones in Rio are called orelhoes and accept phone cards. These cards can be purchased at telephone offices, newsstands and street vendors. Cards can be purchased, starting at around \$1 for 20 minutes.

EMERGENCY

190

GUARANTEE

Shop with confidence, knowing that all merchants on this map have been carefully selected and each offers a 30-day guarantee to passengers. This guarantee ensures buyers that all recommended merchants will repair or replace any unsatisfactory item, excluding buyer's negligence or buyer's remorse. For purposes of determining quality and value of jewelry related to a buyer's complaint, only appraisals secured by a buyer from independent graduate gemologists, not affiliated with any retail jeweler, will be acceptable. Please inquire about individual store return policies before finalizing any purchase. The port shopping program is operated by Onboard Media, Inc. Participating merchants have paid an advertising fee to Onboard Media for inclusion in this program. Cruise Line receives a promotional fee from Onboard Media. Onboard Media handles all customer relations claims relating to the guarantee.

If you become aware of a problem during the cruise, please contact the Discover Shopping Guide onboard for immediate assistance. If a problem

arises after the cruise but within 30 days of the purchase date, contact the Customer Relations Department at

Onboard Media:

1691 Michigan Ave Suite 600, Miami Beach, FL 33139
Phone: (800) 396-2999, Fax: (305) 673-2741
Email: shoppingissues@onboard.com
Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm - Friday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Please send a letter and include the name of the ship, cruise date, store name and merchandise problem. Also enclose a copy of the sales receipt and any relevant documents relating to the sale. Onboard Media will contact the recommended store on your behalf for repair or replacement, and you will be notified accordingly.



RIO DE JANEIRO

PORT & SHOPPING MAP

English



CAPITAL

Brasilia is the capital of Brazil. It is located approximately 746 miles from Rio de Janeiro.

POPULATION

One of the most crowded cities in Brazil, the population of Rio de Janeiro is approximately eleven million people, with seven million in the city itself and four million in the surrounding areas.

LANGUAGE

The official language of Brazil is Portuguese.

CURRENCY

The monetary unit of Brazil is the real - R\$. Recommended stores will

accept credit cards and traveler's checks.

SIZE

Rio de Janeiro covers an area of 16,568 square miles.

LOCATION

Rio de Janeiro is located in South Eastern Brazil on the Atlantic Ocean.

TIME ZONE

Rio de Janeiro is on UTC/GMT -2.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The main Tourist Information Center is located at Av. Princesa Isabel 183, Copacabana. It is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

PLACES TO SEE

A. CORCOVADO

One of Rio's most famous landmarks, Corcovado is the name of the hill where the Statue of Christ, the Redeemer stands. The statue stands 100 feet high and was a gift from France to the city. There is also a chapel situated in the base that holds up to 150 people. This spot offers a 360-degree spectacular panorama of Rio and at night the brightly lit statue is visible from everywhere in the city.

B. SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN

This great granite peak is also known as Pão Açúcar. It is located at the entrance of Guanabara Bay, within the city limits of Rio de Janeiro. To reach the summit, which is 396m above Rio, you have to take two cable cars. The first one takes you to 220m and at this point you can see Guanabara Bay. The second takes you to Pão Açúcar, which offers an amazing view of the city of Rio and the surrounding areas.

C. IPANEMA & LEBLON

This area houses some of Rio's most fashionable boutiques as well as the city's better bars, restaurants and nightclubs. Known as Rio's two most desirable districts, they face the same stretch of beach and are separated by the Jardim de Alah, a canal and adjacent park.

D. MUSEU AMSTERDAM SAUER

Located at Rua Garcia D'Ávila 105, this museum houses a collection of precious stones, as well as replicas of their mines. It's open from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. on Saturday.

Locations found inside on map

Tune in to Shopping Channel 22

