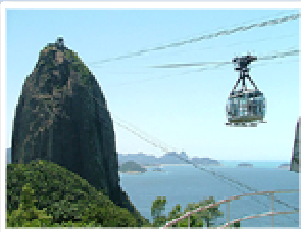
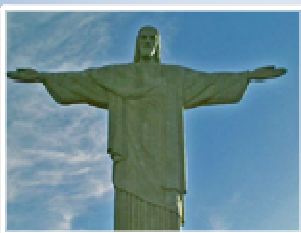


RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio de Janeiro is the second largest city of **Brazil** and **South America**, behind **São Paulo**. It is the state capital of Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro is famous for its natural settings, its Carnival celebrations, samba and other music, and hotel-lined tourist beaches, such as **Copacabana** and **Ipanema**. Some of the most famous landmarks in addition to the beaches include the giant statue of Christ, known as Christ the Redeemer ('Cristo Redentor') atop Corcovado mountain, named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World; Sugarloaf mountain (Pão de Açúcar) with its cable car; the Sambódromo, a giant permanent parade stand used during Carnival and Maracanã stadium, one of the world's largest football stadiums. The city also boasts the largest and second largest urban forests in the world: Floresta da Tijuca, or "Tijuca Forest".



Sugarloaf Mountain is a peak situated in **Rio de Janeiro**, from the mouth of **Guanabara Bay** on a peninsula that sticks out into the Atlantic Ocean. Rising 396 metres (1,299 ft) above sea-level, its name is said to refer to its resemblance to the traditional shape of concentrated refined loaf sugar. However, it is believed by some that the name actually derives from Pau-nh-acuqua ("high hill") in the Tupi-Guarani language, as used by the indigenous Tamoios.



Christ the Redeemer is a statue of Jesus Christ in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. The statue stands 30 metres (98 ft) wide and 38 metres (120 ft) tall with its pedestal. It weighs 635 tons (700 short tons), and is located at the peak of the 700 metres (2,300 ft) **Corcovado mountain** in the Tijuca Forest National Park overlooking the city. It is one of the tallest of its kind in the world. The statue of Christ the Redeemer is a very important symbol of Brazil's christianity. It is made of reinforced concrete and

soapstone.

Copacabana beach stretches from Posto Dois (lifeguard watchtower Two) to Posto Seis (lifeguard watchtower Six). Leme is at Posto Um (lifeguard watchtower One). There are historic forts at both ends of Copacabana beach; Fort Copacabana, built in 1914, is at the south end by Posto Seis and Fort Duque de Caxias, built in 1779, at the north end. One curiosity is that the lifeguard watchtower of Posto Seis never existed. Hotels, restaurants, bars, night clubs and residential buildings dot the promenade. Copacabana Beach plays host to millions of revelers during the annual New Year's Eve celebrations.



Ipanema. The beach is famously known for its elegance and social qualities. Two mountains called the "**Dois Irmãos**" (Two Brothers) rise at the western end of the beach. The beach is divided into segments by marks known as "postos" (lifeguard towers). There are always circles of people playing football, volleyball, and footvolley, a combination sport of volleyball and football originated in Brazil.

Santa Teresa is the name of a neighbourhood in the city of **Rio de Janeiro**. It is located on top of the **Santa Teresa hill**, by the centre of Rio, and is famous for its winding, narrow streets which are a favourite spot for artists and tourists.. The offer of restaurants and bars is also varied.

The Tijuca Forest is a mountainous hand-planted rainforest in the city. It is the world's largest **urban forest**, covering some 32 km². The Tijuca Forest is home to hundreds of species of plants and wildlife, many threatened by extinction, found only in the **Atlantic Rainforest**. After all the original forest had been destroyed to make way for coffee farms, Tijuca was replanted by Major Manuel Gomes Archer in the second half of the 19th century, in a successful effort to protect Rio's water supply.

Jardim Botânico (English: Botanical Garden) is a residential neighbourhood of **Rio de Janeiro**, located north of **Ipanema** and **Leblon**, just across Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas and east of Gávea. Jardim Botânico lies in the affluent "Zona Sul" (South Zone) of Rio de Janeiro. One of Rio de Janeiro's most famous carnival blocs parades annually through the streets of Jardim Botânico. The bloc calls itself "Suvaco do Cristo", which translates to "Armpit of the Christ" because Jardim Botânico lies right underneath the right armpit of Rio de Janeiro's most prominent landmark, world famous Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) statue.

The Sambadrome da Marquês de Sapucaí is a purpose-built parade area in downtown **Rio de Janeiro**, where samba schools parade competitively each year during **Carnival**. The parades attract many thousands of **Brazilians** and foreign tourists each year. The Sambadrome was designed by Oscar Niemeyer and built in 1984. It consists of 700 m stretch of the Marquês de Sapucaí street converted into a permanent parade ground with bleachers built on either side for spectators. Its capacity is 90,000.

SEE

- Pedra da Gávea (literally Rock of the Topsail), is an impressive rock rising 842 meters above sea level at the highest point, located in Floresta da Tijuca.
- The official Carnival parades take place just before the start of Lent. They are held for four consecutive nights, during which schools parade one after another from 8pm until the morning.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Tourism Office of Rio de Janeiro

Brazil Tourist Office
Instituto Brasileiro de Turismo
SCN - Quadra 2 - Bloco G
Brasilia
telephone / phone : 55 (81) 3453-0047
fax : 55 (81) 3453-0047