ABOUT RIO DE JANEIRO

The bustling city of Rio de Janeiro has been one of Brazil’s most popular and frequented tourist destinations for decades.

Its vibrant city centre is bursting with culture and pulsating with a deep sense of history and heritage. Rio, as it is commonly known, is the second largest city in Brazil and the third largest metropolis in the whole of South America.

It is the most visited city in the Southern Hemisphere, which is no mean feat. This makes for an impressive, memorable attraction for visitors from all over the world.

IMPORTANT INFO

- Area: 746 mi².
- Altitude: 7 feet.
- Estimated population: 6,688,927 inhabitants.
- Rio de Janeiro has two International Airports. Tom Jobim Airport (GIG) and Santos Dumont airport (SDU)

TOURISTIC SPOTS

- Corcovado Hill and Cristo Redentor
- Maracanã Stadium
- Sugar Loaf Hill
- Copacabana Beach
- Lapa Street
- Ipanema Beach
ABOUT TIRADENTES

Tiradentes is a town in southeastern Brazil. It’s known for its baroque colonial-era architecture, exceptionally preserved thanks to the decades of long isolation, it gathers jewels like the charming fountain of the São José Fountain, built in 1749 to supply the city with drinking water and which runs until today.

Also standing out in the city is the majestic Church of San Antonio, second in amount of gold in Brasil.

Largo das Forras, the central city square, houses the City Hall and numerous handicraft shops, restaurants and inns. It was here, in 1888, that slaves gathered to celebrate the end of slavery.

IMPORTANT INFO

- Area: 51.703 mi².
- Altitude: 3041 feet.
- Estimated population: 7 002 inhabitants.
- The nearest airport to Tirantes is the Confins International Airport (CFN)

TOURISTIC SPOTS

- Matriz de Santo Antônio
- City Hall
- Municipal Chamber
- Old Public Jail
- Culture house
ABOUT OURO PRETO

A fabulous and beautiful seventeenth century city located stuck in a deep valley of the mountains of Minas Gerais.

The feeling for first-time visitors is that a time travel is possible.

For its value, Ouro Preto has become a National Monument City in 1933. It was also decreed Cultural Patrimony of Humanity by Unesco in 1980.

IMPORTANT INFO

- Area: 746 mi².
- Altitude: 3868 feet.
- Estimated population: 6 688 927 inhabitants.
- The nearest airport to Ouro Preto is the Confins International Airport (CFN)

TOURISTIC SPOTS

- Tiradentes Square
- Matriz of Nossa Senhora do Pilar
- Dos Contos Bridge
- Ouro Preto's Architecture
- The Inconfidência Museum
ABOUT BELO HORIZONTE

Belo Horizonte has the tourism profile for tourists to really experience and live life the city.

A tour in The city "BH is filled of joys and urban pleasures that go from Architectural icons, parks, tree-lined streets, little shops, gastronomy of the gods, to intense cultural life, and a hospitality that you soon think is a longtime friend..

IMPORTANT INFO

- Area: 206 mi².
- Altitude: 2795 feet.
- Estimated population: 2,501,576 inhabitants.
- The nearest airport to Belo Horizonte is the Confins International Airport (CFN)

TOURISTIC SPOTS

- Municipal Park Américo Renne Gianetti
- Liberty Square
- Mineirao stadium
- Pampulha lagoon and the Niemeyer buildings
- São Francisco de Assis Church
**SUGGESTED ITINERARY**

**DAY ONE - March 23rd - Saturday**

**Morning:** Airport pick-up and drop-off at Hostel.
**Afternoon:** Free afternoon at the beach.
**Night:** Welcome dinner at a Brazilian steakhouse (A chance to try the best meat cuts along with a long buffet with several options of side dishes and pasta).

**DAY TWO - March 24th - Sunday**

**Morning and afternoon:** Pick-up at the hostel.
**City Tour in Rio.**
Visit of the **Christ of Redeemer and Corcovado Hill** (One of the seven new wonders of the world, with mesmerizing views), the **Selarón Steps** (125 meters of steps covered in bright tile, is a product of sheer determination by the artist Jorge Selarón and the **Sugar Loaf Hill** (The views are breathtaking, especially at sunset. The cable car is the typical way to get there).
**Soccer Game** (If available).
**Night:** Free night to rest.

**DAY THREE - March 25th - Monday**

**Morning:** Hostel pick-up.
**Morning and afternoon:**
**Road trip to Tiradentes.**
**Culinary workshop** (Traditional food from Minas Gerais. Minas Gerais state is well known for having the best culinary in the country. Dishes such as pão de queijo - cheese bread, will be in the menu!)
**Night:** Dinner with host families. (Brazilian Experience organizes homestay placements. This type of accommodation allows students to have a deep cultural immersion. It’s also a great option for those willing to improve Portuguese skills. Brazilian host families are open, nice and protective. Our families are carefully selected through an interview and house inspection.)
**SUGGESTED ITINERARY**

**DAY FOUR- March 26th - Tuesday**

**Morning and afternoon:** Historical walking tour in Tiradentes and São João Del Rei. (Tiradentes and São João Del Rei are cozy historic towns in the State of Minas Gerais. They were founded over the 18th century and witnessed crucial parts of the Brazilian history).

**Night:** Dinner with host families

**DAY FIVE- March 27th - Wednesday**

**Morning and afternoon:** Group meeting to start trekking. (Trekking to Serra de São José, a trail that passes through a huge rock formation that can be seen from all over the city. Around 7.5 miles of hiking done in about 5h30. The trail passes through a piece of the "slaves' sidewalk", stepping on stones that were laid there centuries ago, directly linked to the history of Minas Gerais and Brazil, such as ancient areas of gold extraction and sections of the Royal Route.)

**Short break to rest.**

**Handcrafts workshop** (An important religious symbol, the students will learn to make the cross which decorates many houses around the city, using colored paper and fabrics).

**Night:** Free night with host families.
DAY SIX- March 28TH - THURSDAY

Morning and afternoon:
Service activity with children from the local Soccer school (Play in English).
Lunch followed by a tour in Bichinho (The village is a sequence of both old and newly built houses, which nevertheless maintains the rustic style due to the wide use of adobe in the new constructions - which serve both as residences and handicraft shops).
Visit to local furniture and decoration producers.
Transfer from Tiradentes to Ouro Preto.
Night: Free night to rest.

DAY SEVEN- March 29TH - FRIDAY

Morning:
City Tour in Ouro Preto (A picturesque eighteenth-century city located in the middle of the hills of the state of Minas Gerais).
Visit to Mina do Veloso (An underground gallery used for gold extraction in the 18th and 19th centuries, which has now been adapted for tourist visitation).
Night: Dinner in Ouro Preto.
DAY EIGHT - MARCH 30TH - SATURDAY

Morning and afternoon:
Transfer from Ouro Preto to Belo Horizonte.
Visit to a local "Quilombola" community (The quilombola communities are an Afro-Brazilian ethnic group. Thequilombolas live in organized ethnic community spaces which they have occupied, for centuries, in several
Brazilian states. These spaces, of collective experience, contributed to the formation of the identity of this people. Contemporary quilombos are living and precious history.)
Night: Farewell Dinner.

DAY NINE - MARCH 31ST - SUNDAY

Morning: Hostel check-out.
Morning and afternoon:
City Tour in Belo Horizonte: visits to Pampulha Lagoon
(a large lagoon located on the south-westerly side of Belo Horizonte, the Pampulha is completely man-made, although is very natural in its appearance), the Central Market, undoubtedly one of the best municipal markets in the world. This traditional indoor market is one of the best representation of the State of Minas Gerais culture, the Praça do Papa (Surrounded by the Serra do Curral, the square is a beautiful place to stroll and enjoy the panoramic view of the city) and also Liberty Square (Due to its privileged location, "Praça da Liberdade" became one of the most visited places in Belo Horizonte. The residents have appropriated this space, where they take walks, do picnics, events, music, theater, etc. In its surroundings, the Cultural Circuit of Praça da Liberdade was implanted. Each building, formerly used by the Secretaries of State, has been transformed into a cultural space open to visitors).
5:30 pm - Transfer to the airport.