

Brazil - Rio Extension

Naturetrek Itinerary



Pão de Açúcar - Sugarloaf Mountain, Rio City

Outline Itinerary

Day 1	End tour & fly Rio de Janeiro – Stay Arena Leme Hotel (Deluxe Sea View Room)
Day 2	A day at leisure - Stay Arena Leme Hotel (Deluxe Sea View Room)
Day 3	A Full Day City tour - Stay Arena Leme Hotel (Deluxe Sea View Room)
Day 4	At leisure until the transfer to airport in the mid-afternoon.

Summary

A stark contrast from the wilderness of both The Pantanal and Iguazú Falls, the visit to the city of Rio de Janeiro offers a cultural experience which is hard to rival elsewhere in Brazil. Often dubbed as the 'Marvelous City' Rio acted as the capital of Brazil until 1960 and is home to some of Brazil's most famous tourist attractions such as Sugarloaf Mountain (Pão de Açúcar) and the Christ the Redeemer statue (Corcovado). However, the cosmopolitan hustle and bustle cannot detract from city which is surrounded by natural;

nestled between the lush, green rolling mountains and the crystal depths of the Atlantic Ocean, a stay in Rio will allow you to capture the essence of Brazil as found nowhere else in the country.

Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

Day 1

Fly to Rio

With the main group tour finishing and flying onward to Sao Paulo, you will instead fly to Rio. Upon landing you will be met in the arrivals hall by your driver and taken to your hotel for the next three nights. The Arena Leme hotel. You will stay here in a deluxe sea view room for three nights. The hotel is right on the beach front. With flight timings you will arrive late tonight but this route allows you to avoid a night in Sao Paulo and also avoid the larger GRU airport in Sao Paulo.

Day 2

Today will be your own to explore Rio as you wish; a great opportunity to visit the beach just opposite the hotel or you could arrange a taxi with reception to take you further afield. You are just opposite the beach and the hotel is also close to Forte Duque de Caxias. More commonly known as Forte do Leme, this is a military base which is open to the public. Visitors can walk to the top of Morro do Leme (Leme Mountain) along an 800m trail which is steep in places and passes through protected Atlantic rainforest habitat. At the top stands an 18th-century fort affording spectacular views of Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain) and the Cagarras Islands. As you are passing through excellent habitat there is the opportunity to find some birds here which may include Palm and Green-headed Tanager, Bananaquit, Great Kiskadee, and Cattle Tyrant among others. Looking out to sea may reveal Magnificent Frigatebird and possibly Brown Booby while Black Vulture often soar overhead.

Day 3

Guided Rio City Tour

After taking breakfast at the hotel, you will be collected by your guide and will begin your full-day city tour of Rio de Janeiro. Your tour will be split into two halves, with lunch being taken at a local café or restaurant (at your own cost). We have included a "Fast Pass" for Sugar Loaf Mountain to avoid often lengthy queues, in order to maximise your time. The day will remain flexible as you will decide where you wish to visit; possible options include.

- The famous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches with panoramic views
- Corcovado (Christ the Redeemer)
- Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain)
- Rio's colonial city centre
- Historical Centre

- Museo do Future
- São Sebastião Cathedral
- The Maracanã Stadium
- Sambódromo (one of the central hubs during Carnaval)
- Escadaria Selaron (the Selaron Steps)

A popular example:

After enjoying breakfast, your guide will collect you from the hotel to begin your guided city tour of Rio de Janeiro which will last approximately 8hrs in duration. Your journey will begin with a scenic drive along the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon before arriving at the base of the Corcovado Hill. Here you will board a comfortable train that ascends the mountain, where the statue of Christ the Redeemer stands 2,300 feet above sea level. The Christ statue, also known as the “wonder of Rio”, was recently chosen to be one of the ‘7 New Wonders of the World’, and one not to be missed on any trip to this city. Once at the top, there are panoramic elevators or escalators which will take you right to the foot of the statue, where panoramic views of the ‘Marvelous City’ of Rio can be enjoyed. Following your descent, it will be time to take a stop for lunch at a local restaurant or cafe before continuing with the rest of your tour.

Your next stop will be a visit to the iconic symbol of this cultural city; Sugar Loaf Mountain (known locally as ‘Pão de Açúcar’), rises up from a small peninsula at the entrance of Guanabara Bay and is named for its resemblance to the traditional shape of a concentrated, refined sugar loaf. The journey to the top is made in multiple glass cable-cars, of which the first takes you to the top of Urca Hill. Here you will be 215 meters above sea level and free to enjoy spectacular views of the bay down below along with its surrounding islands. The second cable-car will transport you from Urca Hill to the top of Sugar Loaf which at 395 meters above sea level and a 360 degree view of the entire city including Botafogo and Copacabana Beaches, Corcovado Mountain and downtown Rio de Janeiro. Entrance fees to Corcovado and Sugarloaf Mountain are included.

This will bring you to the end of your Rio city tour, and so you will begin the transfer back to your hotel.

Day 4

Transfer to Airport

The best part of the day is yours at leisure, until transferring to the airport for your evening overnight flight home. If you wish, you can check out of hotel and leave your bags there until your pick up for your evening flight to enable you to discover more of the city.

Cost

With internal flight prices fluctuating, please enquire for an exact cost.

Included in the Cost

3 nights’ accommodation on a Bed and Breakfast basis. Arena Leme Hotel – Deluxe Sea View room.

Internal flights.

Private transfers between Rio airport and your hotel on a return basis.

Private, guided tour of Rio with vehicle and an English-speaking guide, entrance fees to Sugarloaf Mountain and the Corcovado.

Additional Expenditure

Please note that meals (apart from breakfast), drinks, tips, souvenirs and any transport in addition to the above are not included in the cost of your extension. As a rough guide the cost of a two-course dinner with a bottle of wine comes in at £25 - £30 per person on average. Should you wish to provide tips for your guides and room staff, a suggested amount would be 10 Brazilian reals and 5 reals per client per day respectively. Again, all tipping is at your own discretion and you are of course not obliged to do so.

Any additional expenses are best paid for in cash in reals, although the Arena Copacabana do accept credit/debit cards for payment provided they are permitted to be used overseas.

More information

This extension example is describing a visit to Rio after the main tour but this extension can be done before the main tour as well. It is likely an extra night would be needed doing the extension pre tour in Cuiaba for instance before a Pantanal visit.

We would utilise flights with British Airways flying in to São Paulo and out of Rio.

Accommodation

Rio de Janeiro – Arena Leme Hotel (Deluxe Sea View Room)

With an ideal location set back from the sands of the Copacabana beach, this hotel provides an ideal location to relax and unwind after a day exploring the streets of Rio. Modern suites provide a picturesque view out to the Atlantic, whilst the rooms themselves enjoy facilities such as air-conditioning, cable TV, a minibar, complimentary Wi-Fi and a digital safe. Should you wish to remain in the comfort of your hotel in the evening, there are also on-site restaurants and bars, though the location of the Arena Copacabana means there are also many nearby options for eating out should you choose. The hotel is also close Forte Duque de Caxias. More commonly known as Forte do Leme, this is a military base which is open to the public. Visitors can walk to the top of Morro do Leme (Leme Mountain) along an 800m trail which is steep in places and passes through Atlantic rainforest habitat. At the top stands an 18th-century fort affording spectacular views of Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain) and the Cagarras Islands.



Copacabana beach, Rio City