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DESTINATION OF THE YEAR

UNLOCKED

Rio de Janeiro with Corcovado Mountain, Sugarloaf Mountain, and Guanabara Bay

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FIVE REGIONS, ENDLESS WONDERS IN

BRAZIL

From sunny beaches to lush rainforests, Brazil offers a kaleidoscope of adventures, flavors, and rhythms. Discover the must-see destinations and local favorites that help make this vibrant country truly unforgettable.

Whether you're chasing waterfalls in the heart of the Amazon, relaxing on a sun-soaked beach in Rio, or dancing at a street festival in Salvador, Brazil has everything you could want in a dream destination. Read about each region's highlights and start planning your next Brazilian adventure.



Iguazu Falls, South



Salvador de Bahia, Northeast

NORTH

Known for: Stunning nature, the Amazon rainforest, delicious cuisine
Notable cities: Manaus, Belém, Porto Velho

Start your journey in the vibrant city of Manaus, located on the lush banks of the Rio Negro. The city serves as a gateway to the Amazon rainforest with access to a host of river cruises and jungle tours. The rainforest is a mecca of diverse wildlife, from pink dolphins to macaws and monkeys, while eco-lodges within the rainforest offer a truly immersive experience. Before you answer the call of the wild, visit Manaus' cultural attractions—the Teatro Amazonas (home of the Amazonas Philharmonic Orchestra) and Mercado Adolpho Lisboa, one of the city's largest open markets, to sample regional dishes such as *pato no tucupi* (a stewed duck specialty from Belém) and *tacacá* (a tangy, spicy soup made with traditional Amazonian ingredients that reflect the region's rich indigenous heritage).

Tip: *Make like a local and sip your* tacacá *directly from the bowl.*

NORTHEAST

Known for: Iconic Carnaval celebrations, picturesque beaches, exciting nightlife
Notable cities: Salvador, Fortaleza, Recife, Natal

Brush up on your dance moves before visiting the coastal city of Salvador de Bahia, where your journey continues with the percussive rhythms of Axé—an Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Brazilian melodic fusion. (There's a reason this city is known as the musical heart of Brazil!) If you want to soak up some rays while dancing to the beat, check out music shows staged along the palm-fringed, unbelievable white sand beaches.

Tip: *Love the nightlife? Fortaleza is a prime spot for beachside restaurants, trendy clubs, live music venues, and rooftop lounges with incredible city views.*

CENTRAL-WEST

Known for: Tropical wetlands, ecotourism, unique architecture
Notable cities: Brasília, Goiânia, Campo Grande

This next leg of your journey offers a contrast of modern architecture and natural landscapes. Start with a walking tour of Brasília, the nation's capital, and check out the innovative architecture defined by sweeping curves and futuristic designs. From there, fly into either Cuiabá or Campo Grande and safari in the incredible Pantanal wetlands. Spot all kinds of wildlife in the world's largest and most pristine tropical wetland, including jaguars, giant otters, and hyacinth macaws.

Tip: *Food enthusiasts can try a traditional rice dish containing* pequi, *a small, tasty seasonal fruit with a strong cheese-like flavor.*

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The lift up Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Southeast



Traditional dishes at Aprazível, Rio de Janeiro, Southeast



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SOUTHEAST

Known for: History and culture, vibrant music, coffee production
Notable cities: Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo

And finally (!), it's time to soak up some lively Rio beach culture. Two must-visit destinations are the energetic and renowned Copacabana and the sophisticated and dreamy Ipanema. Then, enjoy panoramic views of the city and coastline from both Sugarloaf Mountain and Corcovado Mountain—also home to the Christ the Redeemer statue. Visit in February or March to experience world-famous Carnaval, rife with colorful parades, costumes, and regional music, from Samba to Bossa Nova and funk. For a different musical experience, head to São Paulo, known for its many gafierias (dance halls), where you're likely to hear Sertanejo, a local folk/country style. While in São Paulo, try the beloved street food *coxinha*, a crispy chicken and cream cheese fritter that makes for the perfect late-night snack.

Tip: *One of Rio's most picturesque spots, Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas, is surrounded by a 4.5-mile walking and cycling path. Both bikes and paddle boats are available for rent.*

SOUTH

Known for: Beautiful beaches, scenic hikes, native wildlife
Notable cities: Curitiba, Porto Alegre, Florianópolis

Often called the greenest city on earth, Curitiba is rife with urban parks and a lush botanical garden that resembles French royal gardens, a nod to the fact that Brazil and France share extensive commercial, political, and cultural ties. Despite its French-inspired design, the garden features beautiful local flora, including the Golden Trumpet Tree, Brazil's national flower. Visit before hitting the beaches of Florianópolis. Choose between two trails to hike to the secluded beach of Lagoinha do Leste, accessible only by foot or boat, and you might spot one of the family of sagui marmoset monkeys native to the area.

Tip: *Try whale watching off the coast of Santa Catarina, especially between August and October while whales are migrating north.*



Rio de Janeiro, Southeast

ON THE GROUND IN RIO

After a recent visit, journalist Oneika Raymond shared three highlights of her trip: Wandering the lively Santa Teresa neighborhood, visiting Tijuca Forest, one of the largest urban rainforests in the world, and setting sail on a sunset cruise through Guanabara Bay—the perfect way to view Rio's picturesque beaches from the water. "The culture here is so vibrant," she says. "You can feel the energy."

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