

## 1. THE SOUTHEAST REGION

The Southeast region comprises the states of Espirito Santo, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro bordering the Atlantic Ocean and the inland state of Minas Gerais; 10,85% of Brazil's total area – with 62.121 thousand inhabitants, 42,5% of the country's total. It is the most developed region in Brazil. The South East region main features are:

- \* The highest level of economical development in Brazil - the most important industrial poles and the most developed agriculture.
- \* Great mineral riches, being the world's major miner of coloured gemstones and iron ore and also producing many other precious minerals.
- \* Brazil's 2 major ports - Santos and Rio de Janeiro.
- \* Great diversity of landscapes: wonderful beaches along the coastal plain, four ranges of mountains on the two dominating plateaus and the lush Atlantic Forest.
- \* The highest demographic density in the country and the largest number of cities.
- \* The three biggest Brazilian cities - Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte.
- \* Sao Paulo, the second largest metropolitan area in the world.
- \* Rio de Janeiro, considered by many as the most beautiful city in the world.
- \* The most impressive set of colonial towns in the Americas.
- \* Ouro Preto, entirely colonial town, declared by UNESCO as Cultural Patrimony of Mankind.
- \* Wonderful beach resorts and charming mountain resorts.
- \* Rio's Carnival, the world's most spectacular show.
- \* Rich typical cuisine and all the types of ethnic cuisine.
- \* Wide lodging options, from moderate hotels to the most elegant 5 star hotels and resorts.

The main cities are Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte, all linked to other cities in Brazil by air and by a very good road net.

Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are linked to Europe, North America, Central America, Africa and other countries in South America, by daily flights. The ports of Rio de Janeiro and Santos (in Sao Paulo State) are the major ones in Brazil, both for cruise and cargo vessels.

## 1.1. RIO DE JANEIRO



Rio de Janeiro, the so called Marvellous City, is the capital of Rio de Janeiro State. Second biggest city in Brazil, with a population of 6.186.710 inhabitants within the city limits, it is nevertheless a beach resort, located by the Atlantic Ocean and by the big Guanabara Bay.

Rio is graced by its topography. The city spreads on a 24 km (15 mi) long strip of land, nestled between mountains and sea. There are some 45 km (28 mi) separating downtown Flamengo from far flung Recreio, bordered on one side by the blue ocean, on the other by verdant hills. Between them lies a colourful state of mind called “carioca”, relaxed and high-spirited. Although being no longer Brazil’s capital, Rio is still an important cultural, financial and tourist centre.

Being stunning beach resort and a big cosmopolitan city, Rio is one of the most complete destinations in the world, offering visitors the beauty of its famous beaches, the tropical lush of the Atlantic Forest covering the many mountains that intersperse the beaches and the residential areas, besides the magnificence of Guanabara Bay - plus all the facilities that a modern city may provide.

A sunny and warm climate with only slight seasonal variations and a joyful people, the “Cariocas” help making it one of the world’s top holiday makers.

Rio is a swinging city day and night. Nightlife is busy and goes on until sunrise. By the early risers jogging people can be already seen along the beaches and parks. It is a fitness concerned city, sports being very popular. All day long there are people playing soccer, volleyball and tennis on the beaches and public courts. Surfing, sailing, rowing and other water sports are also very much practiced.

Rio is also the site of the world’s largest and most spectacular show - Rio Carnival. Its most famous feature, the “Samba Schools” Parade, is a colourful and bright 4day show featuring magnificent floats and thousands of people dancing and singing, dressed in wonderful costumes.

## Rio de Janeiro - Excursions

### Half Day City Tour & Sugar Loaf (approx. 4 hours)

Downtown is the business heart of Rio. It is the part of the city where colonial Rio meets modern skyscrapers. Your tour starts on 1º de Março Avenue, the first commercial street built in the 18th. You will see the Paço Imperial palace, which was the first residence of the Royal Family, Banco do Brasil Cultural Centre and the Candelaria Church. From this point, the bus will proceed to Presidente Vargas Avenue, the second most important street in downtown, built to create access from the suburbs to the commercial centre of the Capital in the early nineties, passing through the popular market and Tiradentes Square. Following with the tour you will see the Metropolitan Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro, Rio's aqueduct, Santo Antonio Church, BNDES and Petrobras buildings reaching Lapa, the most popular night life point in Rio. You will have a panoramic view of the Teatro Municipal, the National Library and the City Council building – all of them inspired in the European 18th century style. Afterwards you will drive through the Flamengo Park, from where you have the chance to see highlight of this tour, Sugar Loaf. This famous mountain is reached by a cable car 1,200 feet high, an experience you will never forget: looking down at Rio from the Sugar Loaf, one of the most spectacular views in the world.

*The itinerary can be changed due to the re-routing traffic in the center of Rio.*

### Half Day City Tour & Sugar Loaf with lunch (approx. 6 hours)

Downtown is the business heart of Rio. It is the part of the city where colonial Rio meets modern skyscrapers. Your tour starts on 1º de Março Avenue, the first commercial street built in the 18th. You will see the Paço Imperial palace, which was the first residence of the Royal Family, Banco do Brasil Cultural Centre and the Candelaria Church. From this point, the bus will proceed to Presidente Vargas Avenue, the second most important street in downtown, built to create access from the suburbs to the commercial centre of the Capital in the early nineties, passing through the popular market and Tiradentes Square. Following with the tour you will see the Metropolitan Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro, Rio's aqueduct, Santo Antonio Church, BNDES and Petrobras buildings reaching Lapa, the most popular night life point in Rio. You will have a panoramic view of the Teatro Municipal, the National Library and the City Council building – all of them inspired in the European 18th century style. Afterwards you will drive through the Flamengo Park, from where you have the chance to see highlight of this tour, Sugar Loaf. This famous mountain is reached by a cable car 1,200 feet high, an experience you will never forget: looking down at Rio from the Sugar Loaf, one of the most spectacular views in the world.

*Lunch is included in a barbecue restaurant. Beverages are not included.*

*The itinerary can be changed due to the re-routing traffic in the center of Rio.*

### Half Day Beaches Tour & Corcovado (approx. 4 hours)

In the Cosme Velho district we board the cog-wheel train (\*) which takes us through the Tijuca Forest to the top of the Corcovado Mountain. The ride takes 20 minutes and is a wonderful opportunity to have a close look at the tropical forest's lush vegetation and to enjoy scenic views of the beaches and the city of Rio. Disembarking at the top of Corcovado you may climb the stairs or take the elevator and escalators to the very top of the 748 m (2.454 ft) high mountain where you will stand next to one of the Modern World Wonders: The Statue of Christ the Redeemer. From here you have a really divine view of the "Marvellous City". After descent, you will see some of the most beautiful beaches in Rio.

*(\*) or Vans certificated by the city's administration departure from Largo do Machado where the van stop is located and go to top of Corcovado.*

**Half Day Tour to Corcovado & Beaches with lunch (approx. 6 hours)**

In the Cosme Velho district we board the cog-wheel train which takes us through the Tijuca Forest to the top of the Corcovado Mountain at 748 m (2.454 ft) high. The ride takes 20 minutes and is a wonderful opportunity to have a close look at the tropical forest's lush vegetation and to enjoy scenic views of the beaches and the city of Rio. Disembarking at the top of Corcovado you may climb the stairs or take the elevator and escalators to the very top mountain where you will stand next to one of the Modern World Wonders: The Statue of Christ the Redeemer. From here you have a really divine view of the "Marvellous City". After descent, you will see some of the most beautiful beaches in Rio.

*Lunch is included in a Barbecue restaurant. Beverages are not included.*

**Full Day City Tour including Sugar Loaf & Corcovado (approx. 8 hours)**

Leaving the hotel and proceeding as far as Cosme Velho Station to board a cog-train (\*) for the ride through Tijuca Forest up Corcovado Mountain at 748 m (2.454 ft) high. The train ride takes 20 minutes and is a wonderful opportunity for a closer look at the forest's lush tropical vegetation and to enjoy scenic landscapes of the beaches and city. Disembarking at the top of Corcovado and then proceeding up the steps that lead to the top lookout where the towering statue of Christ the Redeemer stands. After appreciating the breathtaking view unfolding below, passengers will descend by train. The tour proceeds passing by Rio's world-famous beaches as far as Urca District to board a cable car for a two-staged ascent up Sugar Loaf Mountain at 390 m (1.280 ft) high. Then coming down and proceeding along Guanabara Bay and Flamengo Park as far as downtown. Visit downtown area, passing by the financial and business centre and by other attractions such as the Candelaria Church, Saint Sebastian Cathedral, Lapa Arches, Municipal Theatre, National Library, Fine Arts Museum, and by the Sambadrome, site of Rio's famous Carnival parade.

*(\*) or Vans certificated by the city's administration departure from Largo do Machado where the van stop is located and go to top of Corcovado.*

*The itinerary can be changed due to the re-routing traffic in the center of Rio.*

**Full Day City Tour including Sugar Loaf & Corcovado with lunch (approx. 8 hours)**

Leaving the hotel and proceeding as far as Cosme Velho Station to board a cog-train for the ride through Tijuca Forest up Corcovado Mountain at 748 m (2.454 ft) high. The train ride takes 20 minutes and is a wonderful opportunity for a closer look at the forest's lush tropical vegetation and to enjoy scenic landscapes of the beaches and city. Disembarking at the top of Corcovado and then proceeding up the steps that lead to the top lookout where the towering statue of Christ the Redeemer stands. After appreciating the breathtaking view unfolding below, passengers will descend by train and head to a barbecue restaurant for lunch. Beverages are not included. After lunch, the tour proceeds passing by Rio's world-famous beaches as far as Urca District to board a cable car for a two-staged ascent up Sugar Loaf Mountain at 390 m (1.280 ft) high. Then coming down and proceeding along Guanabara Bay and Flamengo Park as far as downtown. Visit downtown area, passing by the financial and business centre and by other attractions such as the Candelaria Church, Saint Sebastian Cathedral, Lapa Arches, Municipal Theatre, National Library, Fine Arts Museum, and by the Sambadrome, site of Rio's famous Carnival parade.

*The itinerary can be changed due to the re-routing traffic in the center of Rio.*

**Full Day Tour to Petropolis with lunch (approx. 7 hours)**

A drive through the outskirts of Rio, up the Serra dos Orgãos on a winding, scenic road through the Atlantic Rain Forest will take you to the "Imperial City of Petrópolis", 810 m (2.660 ft) above sea level. We will visit the museum at the summer palace of former Emperor Pedro II of Brazil and the Cathedral with the tomb of the Emperor and his wife. You will see the highlights of this charming city, such as the "Crystal Palace", mansions and buildings from imperial and modern times.

*Lunch will be in a typical Barbecue restaurant (Self-service Buffet- beverages not included)  
\* Not available on Mondays*

**Rio by Night - Dinner (approx. 3 hours)**

Enjoy dinner in one of the best barbecue restaurants in Rio, consisting of great variety of salads, unlimited barbecued meat of various types, large array of side dishes, desserts and coffee.

*Drinks are not included.*

**Rio by Night – Show only (approx. 3 hours)**

A show that gathers on stage the combination of diversity and culture: the Northeast, the Amazon, the Pampas with its folklore, Bahia with its capoeira and mystical rituals and Rio de Janeiro with its bohemian culture, represented by the drummers and beautiful dancers dressed with carnival costumes.

*Ginga Tropical show available on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.*

*In January and February the show is also available on Wednesdays.*

**Rio by Night Dinner and Show (approx. 5 hours)**

Pick up at your hotel for dinner and a very nice show that gathers on stage the combination of diversity and culture: the Northeast, the Amazon, the Pampas with its folklore, Bahia with its capoeira and mystical rituals and Rio de Janeiro with its bohemian culture, represented by the drummers and beautiful dancers dressed with carnival costumes.

*Ginga Tropical show available on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.*

*In January and February the show is also available on Wednesdays.*

*Drinks are not included.*

**Full Day Tour in Petropolis with lunch (approx. 7 hours)**

A drive through the outskirts of Rio, up the Serra dos Orgãos on a winding, scenic road through the Atlantic Rain Forest will take you to the “Imperial City of Petrópolis”, 810 m (2,660 ft) above sea level. We will visit the museum at the summer palace of former Emperor Pedro II of Brazil and the Cathedral with the tomb of the Emperor and his wife. You will see the highlights of this charming city, such as the “Crystal Palace”, mansions and buildings from imperial and modern times. Lunch will be in a typical local restaurant (Barbecue and self-service Buffet). Beverages are not included.

*Not available on Mondays.*

**Full day Tropical Islands Cruise with lunch (approx. 8 hours)**

Going southbound along the Green Coast as far the quaint fishing village of Itacuruca. Boarding there a fully equipped schooner for a leisurely cruise on the placid green waters of Sepetiba Bay, studded with tropical islands. Stopping at one of the islands for a refreshing dip followed by tropical style buffet lunch with free time for swimming and relaxing on the beaches.

*Lunch included at local restaurant. Beverages are not included.*

*Minimum of 35 pax requested.*

*Includes: Private transfer to-from Pier with bilingual guide assistance.*

*The tour can be changed/cancelled depending on the weather conditions.*

**The Atlantic Forest Tour by Jeep (approx. 4 hours)**

This tour has been conceived to take you off the beaten track, a chance to experience Rio in close contact with nature. Rio features something unique for a big city: it hosts 3.200 ha of rain forest at easy reach. Known worldwide for its exuberant vegetation, the park of Tijuca Forest is a preserved part of the Atlantic Forest situated right inside the city of Rio de Janeiro. This tour takes you through the mountains of Rio and into the dazzling green world of the Tijuca National Park. Surrounded by mountains and rich in streams and waterfalls, it is

the ideal place for you to breath in the natural perfume and listen to the chorus of its fauna. Touring is done from open-top Jeep along winding picturesque paved roads, followed by a one hour walk through the forest trails to be “at one” with nature in this pristine setting.”

*On shared basis, together with another travelers.*

*\*You are advised to wear light clothing, walking shoes and sun protection. Jeeps have cover in case of rain.*

**Tour to Botanical Garden and Tijuca National Park by Jeep (approx. 4 hours)**

The Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro is situated in one of the city’s most beautiful regions, lying between the Corcovado Mountain and the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon. Opened in 1808, it features over 5.000 tropical plants and trees. A wander along its many paths will allow you to admire the centenarian mango trees, the majestic imperial palms, and the colourful clumps of azaleas and bamboo groves offering shade from the sun and heat. After the visit of the Botanical Garden you will drive through the mountains of Rio and into the dazzling green world of the Tijuca National Park. A stop will be made at the Chinese Lookout which offers views of the Corcovado and Sugar Loaf Mountains, Ipanema and Leblon beaches, and the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon. Return along the beaches to the hotel.

*On shared basis, together with another travelers.*

*\*You are advised to wear light clothing, walking shoes and sun protection. Jeeps have cover in case of rain.*

## 1.2. BELO HORIZONTE / OURO PRETO



Capital of Minas Gerais State, Belo Horizonte is a quite young city, the first planned city built in Brazil. With a population of 2.452.617 inhabitants within the city limits (2009 census). It is Brazil's third biggest city, but keeps the relaxed way for which the "Mineiros" (Minas Gerais natives) are famous in the country. It is also the air gateway to the historical cities of Minas Gerais. Surrounded by the Serra do Espinhaço hills, the city really deserves its name of Beautiful Horizon. A mild and healthy climate completes the beautiful landscape. Even

being a big metropolis with steel and automobile industries among others, Belo Horizonte offers its citizens a very good quality of life.

Ouro Preto, declared by UNESCO Mankind's Cultural Patrimony, was the state capital during the gold cycle. Its name, meaning Black Gold, derived from the alluvial gold mixed with iron ore found in its streams. It is an entirely preserved Colonial town, with steep streets fringed by authentic Baroque buildings and churches, among which the most beautiful are Saint Francis of Assis, Our Lady of the Pillar and Our Lady of Carmo. Other highlights are the Mineralogy Museum, in the former Governor's Palace that houses nowadays the School of Mines, and the Casa Dos Contos that was at first Ouro Preto's richest family residence and later the city's headquarters of the Royal Treasury, a magnificent colonial building now housing a museum with a sacred-art collection and gold-handling objects.



### Belo Horizonte / Ouro Preto - Excursions

#### **Half Day City Tour of Belo Horizonte** (approx. 3 hours from/to Belo Horizonte)

Leave the hotel to visit the highlights of Belo Horizonte. Visit Pampulha Lake, a district where you can see the first works of world-renowned architect Oscar Niemeyer, landscape projects by Burlle Marx and paintings by Portinari. This district is looked upon as an early example of contemporary architecture in Brazil which reached its climax in Brasilia. Visit the Museum of Art and the Soccer Stadium. Return to the hotel.

*Not available on Mondays*

#### **Half Day Tour to Sabara** (approx. 4 hours from/to Belo Horizonte, approx. 7 hours from/to

Leave the hotel to visit Sabará, where gold was first found in Minas Gerais. Its remarkable artistic heritage is a good example of early baroque. Tour along that small colonial town and visit the Museum of Gold, Chapel of Our Lady of "Oh", Church of Our Lady of Carmel and the theater. Return to the hotel.

*Not available on Mondays, Jan 1st, Apr 21st, Dec 25th, Ash Wednesday.*

**Full Day Tour to Ouro Preto with lunch** (approx. 9 hours from/to Belo Horizonte, approx. 6 hours from/to Ouro Preto)

You will enjoy a sightseeing tour along the main attractions of Ouro Preto, including a visit to the church Our Lady of the Pillar, with its carved works painted entirely in gold, the Opera House, the Oratorio Museum, the Museum of the School of Mines, which gives you a complete mineralogical view of Brazil.

*The tour includes lunch at local restaurant and entrance fee. Drinks are not included. This tour is not available on Mondays, Jan1st, Apr 21st, Dec 25th, Ash Wednesday.*

**Full Day Tour to Ouro Preto and Gold Mine with lunch** (approx. 10 hours from/to Belo Horizonte, approx. 7 hours from/to Ouro Preto)

Sightseeing along Ouro Preto's highlights and then visiting the churches of Our Lady of the Pillar, a church with carved works painted entirely in gold and Saint Francis of Assis, designed by Aleijadinho, with soapstone sculptures by the same artist. You will visit the Oratorio Museum, the Museum of the School of Mines, a complete mineralogical view of Brazil and the Opera House. Lunch is included in a typical "mineiro" food restaurant, an opportunity to taste the region's farm style savory dishes. This tour also includes a visit to Passagem Gold Mine. Entering in the mine in railcars that follow the gold veins as far as a crystalline floodlit lake and being offered a demonstration of gold panning.

*Beverages are not included. Tour not available on Mondays.*

**Full Day Tour to Ouro Preto and Mariana with lunch** (approx. 10 hours from/to Belo Horizonte, approx. 8 hours from/to Ouro Preto)

Sightseeing along Ouro Preto's highlights and then visiting the churches of Our Lady of the Pillar, a church with carved works painted entirely in gold and Saint Francis of Assis, designed by Aleijadinho, with soapstone sculptures by the same artist. You will visit the Oratorio Museum, the Museum of the School of Mines, a complete mineralogical view of Brazil and the Opera House. Lunch is included in a typical "mineiro" food restaurant, an opportunity to taste the region's farm style savoury dishes. Proceeding to Mariana, the tour includes a walk down its picturesque streets which allows you to see houses dated from the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with their balconies of wood, iron and even soapstone.

*Beverages are not included. Tour not available on Mondays.*

**Full Day Tour to Ouro Preto and Congonhas with lunch** (approx. 10 hours from/to Belo Horizonte, approx. 8 hours from/to Ouro Preto)

Sightseeing along Ouro Preto's highlights and then visiting the churches of Our Lady of the Pillar, a church with carved works painted entirely in gold and Saint Francis of Assis, designed by Aleijadinho, with soapstone sculptures by the same artist. You will visit the Oratorio Museum, the Museum of the School of Mines, a complete mineralogical view of Brazil and the Opera House. Lunch is included in a typical "mineiro" food restaurant, an opportunity to taste the region's farm style savory dishes. Proceeding to Congonhas for a visit to Aleijadinho's works in front of Bom Jesus do Matosinho Church: the 12 statues of the prophets, carved in soapstone, and the Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross), made in polychromatic woodwork. The set of life sized sculptures in Brazil's greatest artistic treasure.

*Beverages are not included. Tour not available on Mondays.*



## 1.3. SAO PAULO



Biggest city in South America, Sao Paulo City is the capital of Sao Paulo State. Second biggest metropolitan area in the world, with a population of 11.037.593 inhabitants within the city limits (2009 census), Sao Paulo is a very modern, industrialized and cosmopolitan city, the site of Latin America's largest industrial complex and the adopted home of thousands of immigrants from all over the world. A thoroughly modern city, with wide avenues, viaducts, skyscrapers, nice residential suburbs, Sao Paulo is a vast metropolitan sprawl with a rich hybrid society.

A business city by excellence, it is also a centre of rich cultural life, with a busy nightlife, wonderful shopping possibilities and the greatest variety of ethnic restaurants in Brazil.

### Sao Paulo - Excursions

#### **Half Day City Tour of Sao Paulo** (approx. 3 hours)

Pick up at your Hotel in Downtown for a tour including the historical places of downtown and the financial area of Paulista Avenue, including Pateo do Colegio, Sé Cathedral (Catedral da Sé), Sao Bento Monastery (Mosteiro de São Bento), City Hall, Municipal Theater, Liberdade (Japanese District), Paulista Avenue, MASP Museum and Trianon.

*Entrance fees are not included. Museums are closed on Mondays.*

#### **Half Day City Tour of Sao Paulo with Stop for lunch** (approx.5 hours)

Pick up at your Hotel in Downtown for a tour including the historical places of downtown and the financial area of Paulista Avenue, including Pateo do Colegio, Sé Cathedral (Catedral da Sé), Sao Bento Monastery (Mosteiro de São Bento), City Hall, Municipal Theater, Liberdade (Japanese District), Paulista Avenue, MASP Museum and Trianon. Tour includes a stop for lunch.

*Lunch and entrance fees are not included. Museums are closed on Mondays.*

#### **Full Day City Tour of Sao Paulo with Stop for lunch** (approx.8 hours)

Pick up at your hotel in Downtown for a full day tour including the historical places of downtown, the financial area of Paulista Avenue, Morumbi and Jardins neighborhood, the Governor's Palace, Pateo do Colegio, Sé Cathedral (Catedral da Sé), São Bento Monastery (Mosteiro de São Bento), City Hall, Municipal Theater, Municipal Market (Mercado Municipal), Liberdade (the Japanese District), the Oscar Freire Street, MASP Museum, Trianon and the Ibirapuera Park. Tour includes optional stop for lunch.

*Lunch, drinks and entrance fees are not included. Museums are closed on Mondays*

**Full Day Tour to Santos and Guaruja with Stop for lunch** (approx.8 hours)

You will leave your hotel around 08:00h to enjoy a full day trip to the cities of Santos and Guarujá, both located about 2h away from São Paulo, famous for its histories involving coffee export and beaches. The historical center of Santos preserves important buildings, streets, squares and monuments that make up one of the largest architectural and artistic collections in the country. You will see the Coffee Exchange (built in 1922) which houses the Coffee Museum with permanent and temporary exhibitions and also the Aquarium of Santos. At Guarujá you will find dozens of beaches of unparalleled beauty, amazing whiteness and excellent bathing all year. The favorite getaway for the Sao Paulo city dwellers. You will visit the Enseada beach with clear waters and good for surfing. Tour includes optional stop for lunch.

*Lunch, drinks and entrance fees are not included.*