

American Celebration of Music in Brazil

São Paulo - Rio de Janeiro

Standard Tour #1 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to São Paulo, Brazil

Day 2

São Paulo

Arrive in São Paulo. Meet MCI Tour Managers who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoaches

Transfer to hotel with a panoramic tour of São Paulo en route

Evening Welcome Dinner

São Paulo is the capital of the state of the same name and the largest city in South America. Economically, politically and culturally it is the most important city in Brazil. Situated on the Piratininga plateau and surrounded by rivers which fan out to provide access to the interior, São Paulo proved soon after its foundation to be the gateway to the sertão. On their expeditions into the wild country of the interior the bandeirantes of São Paulo explored vast tracts of territory in the hinterland of the town, the south and midwest of Brazil and Minas Gerais. Some of the expressways (rodovias) radiating from São Paulo follow the same routes used by the bandeirantes and tropeiros (cattle-drovers)

Day 3

São Paulo

Sightseeing in São Paulo includes entrance to the Museum of Modern Art

In the afternoon, visit the Sacred Art Museum

Attend an evening show or concert

Day 4

São Paulo

Morning sightseeing in São Paulo includes Ibirapuera Park. With an area of 1.8 million sq.m (2.2 million sq.yds), the park is a leisure paradise for the people of São Paulo, with a lake, fountains, children's playgrounds, trails, a roller-skating rink and an open-air theatre for concerts and other musical events; but with its numerous monuments, museums and administrative buildings it is also of great architectural and cultural interest

Afternoon at leisure for exploration and shopping

Evening concert in São Paulo

Day 5

São Paulo

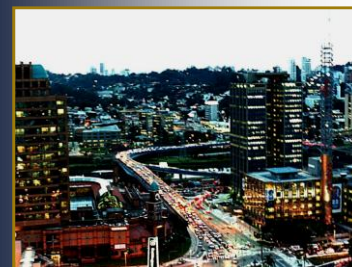
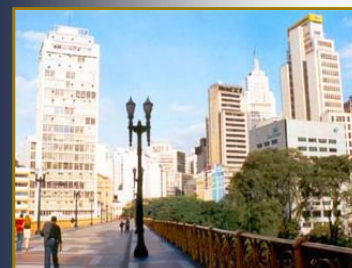
Sightseeing in São Paulo includes visits to the Parque da Aclimação, the historic center, the Centro Cultural in the Paraíso District, and the national monument of Sítio da Ressaca, founded by the bandeirantes, in the Jabaquara quarter

Evening concert in São Paulo

Day 6

Rio de Janeiro

Transfer from São Paulo to Rio de Janeiro via motorcoach. Stop en route at the village of Mangaratiba for a boat cruise to the tropical islands along the Green Coast, south of Rio



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Afternoon beach time

Continue on to Rio

Rio de Janeiro is the Cidade Maravilhosa (Marvelous City). Seven million Cariocas, as the inhabitants are called, are jammed into the world's most beautiful city - between ocean and escarpment. In Rio, everything ends with samba - soccer games, weddings, work, political demonstrations and, of course, a day at the beach. It was Brazil's capital city until 1960, when the government was moved to Brasilia. But Rio remains the cultural and tourist capital of Brazil, still setting the fashion and pace for the rest of the nation

Day 7

Rio de Janeiro

Morning free for time on the beach

Dinner at a "Carioca's" (Rio native) favorite restaurant - the Churascaria. Truly a meat eater's delight - a Churascaria is a barbecue restaurant where waiters bring over choice meats on skewers and cut slices of your choice. Beef, pork, and chicken are served. A buffet of vegetables, salads and even sushi rounds out your meal

Day 8

Rio de Janeiro

Today visit the famous Rio landmark "Pao de Acucar" ~ Sugarloaf Mountain, set dramatically at the mouth of Guanabara Bay. Board the first of two cable cars to the smaller of these two mountains off the coast of Rio

Then continue up on yet another cable car to the summit of the second mountain. The view from this peak of the city of Rio, the bay, and the ocean is breathtaking. Take your time admiring the gardens, walkways and magnificent panoramas. Get an understanding of the layout of this bustling city and marvel at how it has grown nestled between the sun-drenched shores of the south Atlantic and the towering peaks of the coastal mountain range

Take a trip up to the top of Corcovado Mountain, high above Rio, most famous for its 100 foot tall statue "Christ the Redeemer"

Evening concert in Rio

Day 9

Rio de Janeiro

A half-day tour of Rio, in which an expert guide will lead you through the historic avenues, squares and back streets, explaining the important historical, political, artistic and social events that shaped Rio into South America's most vibrant city. Not a dry "museum tour" but instead an offbeat, somewhat irreverent look at this most interesting city

Afternoon visit to the Botanical Gardens

Evening Farewell Dinner

Day 10

Depart for home

Transfer to Rio's International Airport for return flight to the USA

Arrive home on the same day

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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