

BRAZIL



The first indigenous people arrived in Brazil over 8,000 years ago. Brazil was discovered by the Portuguese Pedro Alvares Cabral in 1500 and was soon colonised by the Portuguese.

Indians and later Africans were forced into slavery and made to work in the plantations and mines until Portuguese Prince Pedro gave independence in 1822.

Weakened by its recent war with France, Portugal gave in and a bloodless revolution won Brazil its independence. Brazil was a monarchy for a long time before becoming a republic.



CLIMATE

Brazil has five major climatic subtypes: equatorial, tropical, semi-arid, highland tropical, and temperate. These range from rainforests in the north and deserts in the northeast, to forests in the south and tropical savannas in central Brazil.

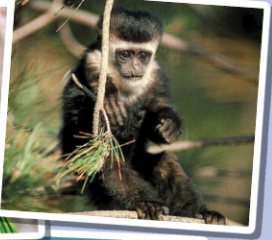
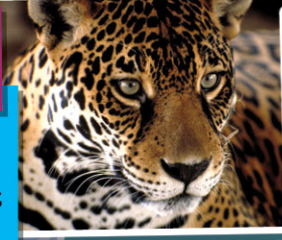
Temperatures average around 25°C. In the south the average temperatures below 18°C and cool winter's frosts are quite common, with occasional snowfalls in the higher areas.



WILDLIFE

Brazil's large territory has many different ecosystems, such as the Amazon Rainforest. The Amazon has one of the most diverse ranges of wildlife in the world!

The Atlantic Forest and the Cerrado, together sustain some of the world's greatest biodiversity. The rich wildlife of Brazil has a huge variety of natural habitats; and new species are found almost every day!



RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio De Janeiro (or Rio as it is more commonly known) is considered one of the most beautiful and fascinating cities in the world.

Rio is known for its amazing beaches and for a yearly festival called 'Carnaval'. This event lasts four days with lively parades and parties that go day and night through the streets of the city! The event attracts more than half a million visitors a year!



Guanabara Bay

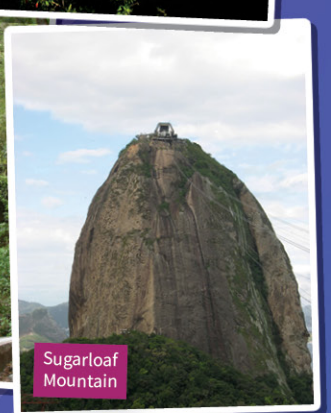


Overlooking the city is a large statue of Jesus called 'Christ the Redeemer' standing on Mount Corcovado. Offering great views, spectators watch over two of the most recognised beaches being 'Copacabana' and 'Ipanema'.

As well as its famous beaches which stretch for about 50 km, Rio boasts the world's largest urban forest. The Tijuca forest covers some 32km².



Tijuca Forest



Sugarloaf Mountain

Rio is the most visited city in the Southern Hemisphere.

When explorers arrived in Guanabara Bay on New Year's Day 1502, they mistook the bay for the mouth of a mighty river. Hence they called the place Rio de Janeiro - Which translates as, 'River of January'.