

BRAZIL TRAVEL AND SAFETY TIPS

Bulletin #1

May 25, 2012

1. U.S. Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro

Av. Presidente Wilson, 147 - Castelo
20030-020 - Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Phone: (55-21) 3823-2000
Phone: (21) 3823-2029 after office hours
Fax: (55-21) 3823-2003
Hours: 08:00 am to 05:00 pm
E-mail: acsrio@state.gov
Home page: <http://riodejaneiro.usconsulate.gov/>

2. U.S. Embassy in Brasília

SES - Av. das Nações, Quadra 801, Lote 03
70403-900 - Brasília, DF
Phone: (55-61) 3312-7000
Phone: (61) 3312-7400 after office hours
Fax: (55-61) 3225-9136/3312-7651
Hours: 08:00 am to 05:00 pm
E-mail: BrasiliaACS@state.gov
Home page: <http://brazil.usembassy.gov>

3. The Department of State

The Department of State encourages all U.S. citizens traveling or residing abroad to register via the State Department's travel registration website or at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate abroad. Registration will make your presence and whereabouts known in case it is necessary to contact you in an emergency and will enable you to receive up-to-date information on security conditions. OLLAS staff have registered all travelers in our group.

Emergency information concerning Americans traveling abroad may be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada or the regular toll line 1-202-501-4444 for callers outside the U.S. and Canada

4. Packing Checklist

Keep in mind when packing for this exciting experience abroad to pack as light as possible.

- a) Official Documents and Program Necessities. Photocopy each of these items. These copies should be kept separate from the original item. You may want to leave a copy of these documents with a family member as well.
 - Passport and copy
 - Student ID card and copy (Your SID will get you discount in all cultural areas)
 - Airline ticket and copy
 - Traveler's Checks (not recommended), credit cards or debit cards are best.

- Signed authorization from your doctor if you are bringing any prescription medication and extra prescriptions for medication, glasses, and contact lenses.

b) Clothing/Dress:

Comfortable clothing; pants will be more appropriate for most of the activities; no flip flops; no short skirts and no shorts during any of our scheduled lectures or visits. You will notice that the dress code on campus varies a lot.

You should also consider that there will be air conditioning in some places, including in the transports and, therefore, a light jacket will be quite handy. There is some chance of rain as well, so an umbrella could be useful.

Weather averages: <http://br.weather.com/weather/climatology/BRXX0201>

Sports close for off hours is OK--the beach is close and it can be visited if and when time allows and with previous notification to coordinators. There will be warm/beach days as well. Temperatures possibly reaching close to 30°C (86°F).

Please take into consideration that Rio is very humid.

Electronics: Bring your cell phone if you wish to communicate with your family or others while in U.S. territory. Check with your phone service to see if you can use it internationally but keep in mind that international phone call and data rates are prohibitive. It is best to subscribe to a system such as Skype, both phone [for a small fee] and videoconferences which are free. You will need to use internet while there. If you do not want to bring a laptop, cyber-cafes are rather common. If you bring a laptop you need to be sure you find the best security tips. It is not a good idea to walk around Rio with a laptop.

The coordinators will have phones that have international access for emergencies

Voltage requirements in Brazil: Voltage: 110/220 V; Plugs A & B. C. You will probably need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

We recommend getting a universal adapter and converter kit. Source:

<http://www.friendlyplanet.com/facts/brazil.html> (friendly planet travel)

c) **What to bring to Brazil in terms gifts:**

From experience, students and community people you meet may give you something to bring back as a memento from your visit. You may want to think of very small and meaningful Nebraska or U of Ne gifts in case you feel the need to reciprocate.

5. Safety Tips

Dress comfortable “and safe.” The South zone of Rio and the neighborhood of Ipanema, Leblon and Gavea - where you will walk around mostly are quite safe, but you should not

bring any fancy jewelry and try to not carry too much cash or valuables. You should try to dress and act as a local and be cautious. On the other hand, you should always carry minimum cash for any emergency or a cab.

Respect cultural differences is useful anywhere. Young Brazilian students do not engage in major drinking as you may have experienced in U.S. college campuses. We expect you to minimize the consumption of alcohol and be very observant of local customs expected of us. It is best to play it safe. Do not assume anything and ask instead.

6. Bank & Exchange Services

ATMs can be found throughout the city. Banco do Brasil, Bradesco, Citibank and HSBC are the best banks to try when using a debit or credit card. Even though many ATMs advertise 24-hour service, these '24 hours' usually fall between 6am and 10pm. On Sundays and holidays, ATM access ends at 3pm. Money changing is speedier at casas de câmbio (exchange offices) than at banks. At the airport, international ATMs and money exchange are located on the 3rd floor of arrivals.

Banks & Exchange Services

Generally, exchange rates are better in the city than at the airport, and cash gets better rates than traveler's checks. Most Brazilian banks don't exchange money. One that does is Banco do Brasil. The branch at Galeão offers good exchange rates, but it won't provide credit-card advances.

Casas de câmbio (exchange houses) are found all over the city, especially along the beaches and on Avenida Nossa Senhora de Copacabana and Rua Visconde de Pirajá in Ipanema. Many change money without charging a service fee. Sometimes, depending on the amount of money you wish to exchange, exchange houses have a better rate than the banks. American Express is another option.

It is not a bad idea, however, to change at least a few dollars before departure. Check with First National Bank or other major banks in Nebraska or exchange in Houston if there is time.