



Brazil

Destination Guide

ARRIVING IN BRAZIL

- 1) After deplaning, enter the Immigration line. Present your passport and approved e-Visa. Answer any questions from the officer.
- 2) Claim your checked bags and proceed through customs.
- 3) Check your travel documents for instructions for transportation to your hotel.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS

Visa Required: As of April 10, 2025, U.S. citizens need an approved e-Visa for tourism, business, or airport transit. Apply online before travel at the official portal: brazil.vfsevisa.com.

The fee is approx. US\$80.90. Processing typically takes a few days (up to 10 business days). The e-Visa is multiple-entry, valid for up to 10 years, and allows stays of up to 90 days per visit (maximum 180 days in any 12-month period).

A valid U.S. passport is required (valid for the duration of your stay; recommend at least 6 months validity and two blank pages). Print and save a digital copy of your approved e-Visa to present at check-in and immigration.

DURING YOUR STAY

TIPPING

A 10% service charge (“taxa de serviço”) is commonly added to restaurant bills. It is optional by law but typically paid for good service. Additional tipping is not expected. Round up café bills or leave small change. Tip drivers by rounding up. Tip porters R\$5–10 per bag. Housekeeping tips are appreciated but not standard.

TIME ZONE

Most of Brazil (including Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Brasília) is on Brasília Time (BRT, UTC–3). Brazil does not observe daylight saving time. Western regions use UTC–4 or UTC–5.

CURRENCY

Brazil uses the Brazilian Real (BRL, R\$). Obtain reais from bank ATMs or authorized exchange offices. Decline currency conversion and always choose to be charged in BRL. Cards (Visa and Mastercard) are widely accepted. Carry some cash and coins for markets, small vendors, beach kiosks, and tips.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Brazil is 127V or 220V AC (60Hz), depending on the region (many major cities use 127V). Outlets are Type C and Type N (round pins). Electronics from the U.S. require a plug adapter; most modern chargers are dual-voltage, but hair tools and other appliances may need a converter. Check local voltage before plugging in.

DRIVING

Brazilians drive on the right. A valid U.S. license plus an International Driving Permit (IDP) is strongly recommended and often expected by rental desks and police. Blood-alcohol limit is effectively zero under the Lei Seca. Carry your passport, license, IDP, rental agreement, and insurance.

COMMUNICATION

Portuguese is the official language. English is spoken in major tourist areas, hotels, and some restaurants, but is less widely available than in many European destinations. Learning basic Portuguese phrases is helpful and appreciated.

PHONE CALLS

The country code for Brazil is +55. If calling from your mobile phone, enter +55 followed by the two-digit area code and the local number (drop any leading 0).

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Police: 190 | Fire: 193

Ambulance / SAMU (Emergency Medical): 192

Federal Highway Police: 191

U.S. Embassy Brasilia: +55 61 3312-7000

TRAVEL TIPS

Tourists can be targets for pickpocketing and opportunistic crime in crowded areas, beaches, markets, and tourist sites. Keep a close eye on wallets, phones, and bags. Use hotel safes and avoid displaying expensive jewelry or electronics.

Yellow fever vaccination is recommended (though not required for entry) for many areas of Brazil, including Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, the Amazon, and Iguaçu Falls. Consult the CDC and receive the vaccine at least 10 days before travel if recommended for your itinerary.

Summer (December–March) is hot, humid, and rainy in many regions. Pack sun protection, light breathable clothing, insect repellent, and rain gear.

Use ride-sharing apps such as Uber or 99 rather than street taxis when possible. Stay on well-traveled paths and listen to local advice.

Churches and religious sites expect modest dress covering shoulders and knees. Carry a light scarf and wrap.

Brazilian coffee culture is vibrant. Enjoy a cafézinho and the warm hospitality of the people.

Protect yourself against mosquitoes, especially in warmer months and in areas with standing water. Use a strong insect repellent, wear long sleeves and pants at dusk and dawn, and consider packing a lightweight mosquito net if you'll be in more rural or Amazon-region areas.