

ABOUT BRAZIL

Brazil is Latin America's largest country. It covers almost half (47.3%) of South America's territory, totalling an area equivalent to 8,547,403 square kilometers. It is the world's fifth largest country, following the Russian Federation, Canada, China, and the United States. Except for a minor number of islands, the Brazilian territory extension is uninterrupted and continuous. While the country is very large, most of the population are located along the south eastern coastline in the large cities such as São Paulo and Rio De Janeiro.

Brazil's east-west territorial extension (4,319.4 km) is almost equivalent to its widest north-south distance (4,397.7 km). Brazil borders with ten countries: the French Guyana, Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela, and Colombia at north; Uruguay and Argentina at south; and Paraguay, Bolivia, and Peru at west. Ecuador and Chile are the only two countries of South America with which Brazil makes no frontiers. The Atlantic Ocean extends along the entire Brazilian east coast, forming a 7,367-km seacoast. The Equator line crosses the northern country, next to Macapá, while the Capricorn Tropic crosses the southern country, next to São Paulo.

Language

Portuguese is the mother language, although very different from that spoken in Portugal and other ancient Portuguese colonies. Some people state that currently Brazilians speak “Brazilish”, with a pretty different accent and intonation. A comparison can be made with the English spoken by American and English people: each one has its own regional characteristics. Many Brazilians also speak German and Italian, especially in southern cities, due to the influence of colonization.

Culture

Few places in the world provide the same welcoming atmosphere to newcomers like Brazil. Its people are warm and friendly who love to enjoy themselves. Brazil has a diverse culture comprised of numerous different races and social groups, from cosmopolitan city living to indigenous tribes.

Internationally Brazil is recognised for its samba music and rhythmic dancing, however one can find every kind of social activity to do in Brazil, from going to the cinema or theatre to volleyball on the beach.

The highlight of the Brazil party calendar is the Rio De Janeiro Carnival, which is undoubtedly the most colourful and best in the world.

The north east of Brazil, which is the emerging location for property investment, is a laid back area. One can find cosmopolitan living in the city of Natal (a city with 1 million inhabitants) or relax on Brazil's version of the Gold coast; endless kilometres of golden sands and turquoise blue seas some 20 minutes outside the city. Here the people are very friendly and are more than willing to help newcomers.

Climate

Brazil is located in the Southern Hemisphere. Thus, its seasons are opposite to those of the Northern Hemisphere: The below stated seasons apply all across Brazil, however the temperatures shown below are based on the north east coast line of Brazil (the area of our properties).

- * Spring: from September 22, to December 21 (23 to 28 Degrees Centigrade)
- * Summer: from December 22 to March 21 (25 to 33 Degrees Centigrade)
- * Fall / Autumn: from March 22 to June 21 (23 to 28 Degrees Centigrade)
- * Winter: from June 22 to September 21 (23 to 28 Degrees Centigrade)

Flight / Travel Statistics

International arrivals increase in May

July 05 2006 – The number of passengers disembarking in Brazil from international flights grew by 3.71% in May compared to the same month in 2005. Infraero information shows that in spite of the crisis in Varig airlines which led to the cancelling of some overseas flights, the country continues to be an attractive destination for foreigners.

In the month of May, 508,608 passengers arrived in Brazil on international flights. The accumulated amount for the year so far is almost 2.9 million which is an increase of 1.7% in relation to the result obtained last year.

Figures obtained by the Central Bank show a further increase in the influx of dollars with the foreign tourists. In May of this year, these visitors left 342 million US dollars in the country, an amount 17% higher than in the same month in 2005. The accumulated result for the year so far is already 1.9 billion US dollars, an amount superior to the annual total for any year before 2002.

The Brazilian Government has approved a new airport for the Natal area of Brazil. This is expected to be the largest airport of its kind in Latin America, which is in anticipation of the increased tourism expected to flood into this area with the advent of the development of this region.

For more information about Tourism in Brazil: <http://www.brasilnetwork.tur.br>

Country Statistics

Location: Eastern South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean

Population: 169,806,557 (July 1998 est.)

Religions: Roman Catholic (nominal) 70%

Languages: Portuguese (official), Spanish, English, French

Geographic coordinates: 10 00 S, 55 00 W

Coastline: 7,491 km

Area—comparative: slightly smaller than the US

For more information visit the UK Brazilian Embassy www.brazil.org.uk

