

RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio is a city with a worldwide known reputation. Ask someone to picture Albuquerque or Zurich, and not much will come to mind. Say "Rio" and mental images explode: the glittering skimpy costumes of Carnival; the statue of Christ, arms outspread on the mountaintop; the beaches of Ipanema or Copacabana, crowded with beautiful people including girls in mini-bikinis; the rocky height of the Sugarloaf; or the persistent rhythm of the samba.

With some cities the image is all there is. Fortunately in Rio there's much more beyond, above, and behind the glitter: historic neighborhoods, compelling architecture, wildlife and nature, dining (of the most various types), nightspots, bookshops, cafes, museums, and enclaves of rich and poor. In Rio, the more you explore, the more there is to see.

Flying into Rio is one of the most beautiful sights in the world, whether at night or during the day, the visitor quickly finds out why Rio is known as the "Marvelous City".

ACOMPANYNG TOURS:

Date : May 23, 2011 / Monday
Tour to Corcovado followed by lunch at Mio
Restaurant in Ipanema visit the Museum of Jewelry &
H. Stern:
Duration: 08 hours

Pick up time at Intercontinental Hotel : 09:00 am
Dropp off time at Intercontinental Hotel : 05:00 pm



We will drive to one of the older parts of Rio called Cosme Velho, from where we take the train to the Corcovado Mountain with the gigantic statue of Christ the Redeemer (2.300ft above sea level). A modern swiss-made cogwheel rail climbs the mountain from its base at 15meters almost to the summit at 710 meters. The trip up takes 17 minutes aprox, at a maximum speed of 15km/h. The trip down takes 22min, at a speed of 12km/h. After this tour will be offered a delicious lunch at Mio restaurant. This restaurant is located in the charming district of Ipanema where we'll also take the opportunity to visit the Museum of H. Stern Jewelers. Return to hotel late afternoon.

Date: May 24, 2011 / Tuesday
Historical tour & Botanical Garden (lunch at Colombo Coffee Shop)
Duration: 08 hours

Pick up time at Intercontinental Hotel : 09:00 am
Dropp off time at Intercontinental Hotel : 05:00 pm



We will see the old Rio, walking, with specialized guide through Rio historical center. The architecture and the traditional commerce will give you the welcome wishes. The walk tour includes a visit to many interesting points, such as the São Bento Monastery, Candelaria's church, Praça XV, the "Travessa do Mercado", Imperial Palace, the cultural center located in the beautifully-restored Banco do Brasil building, the Casa França-Brasil. After this tour, we will have a lunch in the most famous delicatessen in Rio - Confeitaria Colombo.

After lunch visit to the Botanical Garden. This lush oasis was inaugurated in 1808 by the king, Dom João VI. As in imperial times, the gardens have remained a heaven of peace amid a teeming metropolis. A guided walk at a leisurely pace will let you enjoy the many varieties of plants and examples of endangered species. The most striking features are the transverse avenues of 90-foot-high royal palms. In addition to the flora, the gardens are also home of some 140 species of birds and monkeys living in the trees. Your guide will show you the orchid nursery and the insect-eating plants house. Half natural jungle, half laid out in beautifully landscaped gardens; visitors always enjoy spending time in these magical surroundings. From the Botanical Gardens, head to the western fringes of Rio, where various forests were united to form an 8,200-acre national park. The 4-wheel drive vehicles will take you through mountainous areas and deep into the lush, green forest.

Date: May 26, 2011 / Thursday
Burle Max Gardens followed by shopping tour in Downtown and lunch at Gourmet Gallery
Duration: 08 hours

Pick up time at Intercontinental Hotel : 09:00 am
Dropp off time at Intercontinental Hotel : 05:00 pm



One of the most beautiful places to visit in Rio is the Roberto Burle Marx home and gardens. Burle Marx bought the Santo Antonio da Bica sítio in Barra de Guaratiba in 1949 to store his plant collection. The area has a marvelous house and a small chapel that dates back to the 16th century. Both buildings were lovingly restored and Burle Marx lived there from 1973 until his death in 1994. In 1985, the property was donated to the Brazilian government in trust for posterity and became a National Monument. It is now called *Sítio Roberto Burle Marx*.

In an area of approximately 100 acres, visitors can see more than 3,500 species of plants, an extraordinary collection of religious images and pottery from the River Jequitinhonha Valley, and, of course, Burle Marx's own paintings.

After the visit we will have lunch at the Gourmet Gallery Restaurant located in the Downtown Mall followed by a shopping tour.