

Rio de Janeiro City



Be warned: Rio's powers of seduction can leave you with a bad case of *saudade* (indescribable longing) when you leave. Planted between lush, forest-covered mountains and breathtaking beaches, the Cidade Maravilhosa (Marvelous City) has many charms at her disposal.

Although *joie de vivre* is a French invention (as is the bikini), it's the Cariocas (Rio dwellers) who've made it their own. How else to explain the life-lusting zeal with which the city's inhabitants celebrate their days? While large-scale festivities like Carnival make Rio famous, there are countless occasions for revelry – Saturday at Ipanema Beach, a *festa* (party) in Lapa, soccer at Maracanã, or an impromptu *roda de samba* (samba circle) on the sidewalks of Leblon, Copacabana or any other corner of the city.

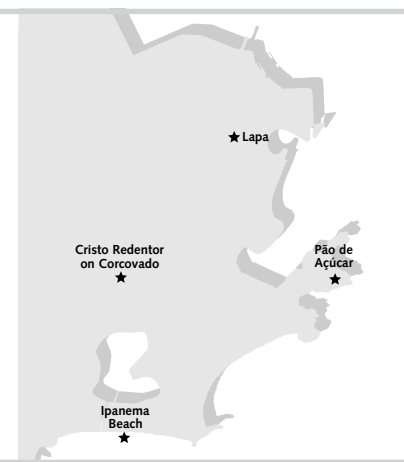
Music is the meeting ground for some of Brazil's most creative artists and nets an audience as diverse as the city. This is another of Rio's disarming traits: its rich melting pot of cultures. Cariocas they may call themselves, but the city's enticing variety of cuisines speaks volumes about its history of immigration.

The spectacular landscape is another of Rio's shameless virtues. Verdant mountains and white-sand beaches fronting deep blue sea offer a range of adventure: surfing great breaks off Prainha, hiking through Tijuca's rain forests, sailing across the Baía de Guanabara (Guanabara Bay) or rock climbing up the face of Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain).

As with any city in the tropics, there is always a downside, and Rio is no exception with its high crime rates and alarming social inequalities. Yet despite her many problems, Rio rarely fails to seduce, and most visitors arrive home already daydreaming of their return.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Order a *caipirinha* and watch the sunset over lovely **Ipanema Beach** (p127)
- Celebrate with King Momo – and millions of others – at **Carnaval** (p114)
- Take the cog train up Corcovado for stunning views beneath the open-armed **Cristo Redentor** (p150)
- Find the perfect beat at a samba club in **Lapa** (p179), one of Brazil's most musically charged neighborhoods
- Admire the Cidade Maravilhosa from eagles' nest heights atop **Pão de Açúcar** (p149)



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 0XX21

■ POPULATION: 7 MILLION

■ AREA: 808 SQ KM

HISTORY

The Tamoio people were living on the land surrounding the Baía de Guanabara when Gaspar de Lemos sailed from Portugal for Brazil in May 1501 and entered the huge bay in January 1502. Mistaking the bay for a river, Lemos named it Rio de Janeiro. The French, however, were the first Europeans to settle along the great bay in 1555. After a brief alliance with the Tamoio – who hated the Portuguese for their cruelty – the French were expelled in 1567. The Portuguese victors then drove the Tamoio from the region in another series of bloody battles.

By the 17th century, the Tamoio had been wiped out. Those who weren't taken into slavery died from disease. Other Indians were 'pacified' and taken to live in settlements organized by the Jesuits. The Portuguese had set up a fortified town on the Morro Castelo in 1567 and, by the 17th century, Rio became Brazil's third-most important settlement (after Salvador da Bahia and Recife-Olinda). African slaves streamed in and the sugar plantations thrived. Even more slaves arrived to work in the gold mines of Minas Gerais during the 18th century.

In 1807 Napoleon's army marched on Lisbon. Two days before the invasion, 40 ships carrying the Portuguese prince regent (later known as Dom João VI) and his entire court of 15,000 set sail for Brazil. When the prince regent arrived in Rio, his Brazilian subjects celebrated wildly, dancing in the streets. He immediately took over the rule of Brazil from his viceroy.

Dom João fell in love with Brazil. Even after he became king of Portugal, he remained and declared Rio the capital of the UK of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarve. This made Brazil the only New World colony to ever have a European monarch ruling on its soil.

At the end of the 19th century the city's population exploded because of European immigration and internal migration (mostly of ex-slaves from the declining coffee and sugar regions). By 1890 Rio boasted more than a million inhabitants, a quarter of them foreign-born, and the city spread rapidly.

The early 1920s to the late 1950s were Rio's golden age. With the inauguration of the grand hotels (the Glória in 1922 and the Copacabana Palace in 1924), Rio became a romantic, exotic destination for Hollywood celebrities and international high society who

came to play and gamble at the casinos and dance or perform in the nightclubs.

Rio continued to change. Three large landfill projects were undertaken to ease the strain on a city restricted by its beautiful surroundings. The first was to become Aeroporto Santos Dumont, near Centro. The second resulted in Flamengo Park, and the third expanded the strand at Copacabana.

Rio remained the political capital of Brazil until 1960, when the government moved to Brasília. During the 1960s, modern skyscrapers rose in the city, and some of Rio's most beautiful buildings were lost. During the same period, the *favelas* (shantytowns) of Rio grew to critical mass with immigrants from poverty-stricken areas of the Northeast and the interior, swelling the number of Rio's urban poor. The Cidade Maravilhosa began to lose its gloss as crime and violence increased.

The final decade of the military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985 was not kind to Rio. There were numerous protests during that period (notably in 1968 when some 100,000 marched upon the Palácio Tiradentes). Even Rio's politicians opposed the military regime, which responded by withholding vital federal funding. The administration was forced to tighten its belt, and infrastructure deteriorated as the city's coffers dried up.

A turning point for Rio came when it was chosen as host city for Eco 92, the UN Conference on Environment and Development. In the build-up to the conference, the federal government poured in almost US\$1 billion to improve Rio's infrastructure. Approximately US\$18 million was spent on satellite communications alone, and Riocentro, a huge convention center, was built.

Today Rio's coffers are full, and the city buzzes with an unstoppable creative energy, as long-awaited projects are finally being financed. The biggest is the Favela-Bairro project, which strives to integrate *favelas* into the rest of the city by providing basic sanitation and by planning leisure areas, health clinics, schools, preschools and community centers (Rio has pledged a total of US\$1 billion over the life of the project). At the same time, some of Rio's aging colonial gems are slowly being revitalized as new businesses arrive.

Rio's most recent makeover took place in preparation for the 2007 Pan Am games, bringing thousands of visitors to the city.

Ongoing efforts of the Favela-Bairro project continue to be a major focus of development. This project, begun in 1994, has brought infrastructure and city services to numerous *favelas*.

ORIENTATION

Rio is a city of unusual urban diversity, with beaches, mountains, skyscrapers and the omnipresent *favelas* all woven into the fabric of the landscape. The city itself can be divided into two zones: the Zona Norte (North Zone), which consists of industrial, working-class neighborhoods, and the Zona Sul (South Zone), full of middle- and upper-class neighborhoods and Rio's well-known beaches. Centro, Rio's business district and the site of its first settlement, marks the boundary between the two, and a number of the important museums and colonial buildings are there.

The parts of Rio you are most likely to explore stretch along the shore of the Baía de Guanabara and the Atlantic Ocean. South from Centro are the neighborhoods of Lapa, Glória, Catete, Flamengo, Botafogo and Urca – where the striking peak of Pão de Açúcar dominates the landscape. Further south lie the neighborhoods of Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon, the only stops for many travelers to the city.

Other areas of interest include the quaint, colonial neighborhood of Santa Teresa, on a hill overlooking Centro, and the looming statue of Cristo Redentor, atop Corcovado in Cosme Velho, from where there are fabulous views of both zones of the city.

Aside from the bus station, Maracanã Football Stadium and the international airport, most travelers have few reasons to visit the Zona Norte.

Rio de Janeiro's international airport, Aeroporto Galeão (GIG; also called Aeroporto Tom Jobim), is 15km north of the city center. Santos Dumont airport, used by a few domestic flights, is by the bayside in the city center, 1km east of Cinelândia metro station. Rio's central bus station, Rodoviária Novo Rio, lies several kilometers northwest of Centro. For information on getting into town from the bus station or from the airports, see p185.

Maps

Guia Quatro Rodas publishes an excellent city map of Rio de Janeiro (R\$16), available at most newsstands. Lonely Planet also produces a good city map. Riotur, the city's tourist information center, provides free street maps at its offices. For physical and topographical maps, head to **Editora Geográfica J Paulini** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2220 0181; Shop K, Rua Senador Dantas 75, Centro).

RIO IN...

Two Days

Start your day off with a refreshing glass of *açaí* (nutritious berry-like fruit) at a neighborhood juice bar and head to lovely **Ipanema Beach** (p127). For lunch, stroll up the sands to **Leblon** (p126) and grab a bite on restaurant-packed **Rua Dias Ferreira**, followed by window-shopping on the streets of Leblon and Ipanema. End the saunter at Praia do Arpoador, one of Rio's best places to watch the sunset. After a power nap (or a *cafézinho* – strong, espresso-sized coffee), have dinner at a **lakeside kiosk** in Lagoa (p128). On day two, take the cable car to **Pão de Açúcar** (p149), followed by a stroll around **Urca** (p149). Around lunchtime, ride the *bonde* (tram) to **Santa Teresa** and dine at **Espírito Santa** (p176) or another well-placed Santa spot. In the evening, go to a samba club in **Lapa** (p179) for Rio's best music scene.

Five Days

On your third day, do something active – hire a bike for a ride along the beachfront or go hiking in **Parque Nacional da Tijuca** (see the boxed text on p160). In the evening, dine in one of Ipanema's great restaurants. On day four, explore the old streets of **Centro** (p152), stopping in some of its excellent museums, cultural centers and churches. In between sightseeing, have lunch at **Brasserie Rosário** (p175) or one of the outdoor cafés nearby. In the evening, catch a football match at **Maracanã** (p156). On your last day, rise early for a stroll along Copacabana beach, stopping for coffee at the idyllic **Confeitaria Colombo** (p173). Afterwards, take the cog train up Corcovado to **Cristo Redentor** (p150), for outstanding views. Have dinner that night in **Yorubá** (p174).

INFORMATION

Bookstores

Argumento (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2239 5294; Rua Días Ferreira 417, Leblon) Small but decent selection of foreign-language books and magazines. Café in back.

Bar das Artes (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2215 5795; Praça XV de Novembro 48, Centro) Combination bistro/bookstore/music shop, inside the Paço Imperial.

Letras e Expressões Ipanema (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2521 6110; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 276, Ipanema; ☎ 8am-midnight); Leblon (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2511 5085; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1292, Leblon; ☎ 24hr) Foreign-language books and magazines, plus an internet café at each branch.

Livraria da Travessa Av Rio Branco (Map pp144-5; Av Rio Branco 44, Centro); Rua Visconde de Pirajá (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2249 4977; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 572, Ipanema); Travessa do Ouvidor (Map pp144-5; Travessa do Ouvidor 17, Centro; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat) Books and periodicals, CDs and an excellent café at the Ipanema branch.

Livraria Prefácio (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2527 5699; Rua Voluntários da Pátria 39, Botafogo) Occasionally hosts readings in its back café.

Nova Livraria Leonardo da Vinci (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2533 2237; Av Rio Branco 185, Centro) One of Rio's best collections of foreign-language books.

Cultural Centers

Casa de Cultura Laura Alvim (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2267 1647; Av Vieira Souto 176, Ipanema) Ipanema's beachside cultural center has a cinema, gallery space, and an enticing café.

Casa França-Brasil (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2253 5366; www.casafrancabrasil.rj.gov.br; Rua Visconde de Itaboraí 78, Centro; admission free; ☎ noon-8pm Tue-Sun) Opened in 1990, this cultural center hosts Franco-Brazilian exhibitions. A lovely bistro is hidden out the back.

Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (Map pp144-5; ☎ 3808 2020; www.cultura-e.com.br; Rua Primeiro de Março 66, Centro; ☎ noon-8pm Tue-Sun) One of Rio's best cultural centers, with excellent exhibitions, a film series and lunchtime and evening concerts.

Centro Cultural Carioca (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 9642; www.centroculturalcarioca.com.br; Rua do Teatro 37, Centro; ☎ noon-8pm Mon-Sat) On Praça Tiradentes, this cultural center hosts musical groups along with dance recitals and ongoing exhibitions.

Centro Cultural Laurinda Santos Lobo (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2224 3331; Rua Monte Alegre 306, Santa Teresa; ☎ 8am-5pm) The large mansion built in 1907 occasionally hosts exhibitions and open-air concerts.

Fundição Progresso (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2220 5070; Rua dos Arcos 24, Cinelândia; admission free; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) This former foundry stages avant-garde exhibitions and performances.

Instituto Moreira Salles (Map p137; ☎ 3284 7400; www.ims.com.br; Rua Marquês de São Vicente 476, Gávea; admission free; ☎ 1-8pm Tue-Sun) A beautiful cultural center that hosts impressive exhibitions. Leafy gardens and a café lie next door.

Emergency

Report robberies to the **tourist police** (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3399 7170; Rua Afrânio de Melo Franco 159, Leblon; ☎ 24hr).

Other useful numbers:

Ambulance (☎ 192)

Fire department (☎ 193)

Police (☎ 190)

Internet Access

Internet cafés charge R\$4 to R\$8 per hour.

Central Fone (Map pp138-9; Rua Teixeira de Melo 47, Ipanema; ☎ 9:30am-9:30pm)

iCafé (Map pp138-9; Rua Prudente de Moraes 167B, Ipanema; per hr R\$10; ☎ 10am-10pm) For Mac lovers.

Letras & Expressões Ipanema (Map pp138-9; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 276; ☎ 8am-midnight); Leblon (Map pp138-9; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1292; ☎ 24hr)

Fone Rio (Map pp140-1; Rua Constante Ramos 22, Copacabana; ☎ 9am-midnight)

Locutório (Map pp140-1; Av NS de Copacabana 1171, Copacabana; ☎ 8am-2am)

Tele Rede (Map pp140-1; Av NS de Copacabana 209A, Copacabana; ☎ 8am-2am)

Eurogames (Map pp142-3; Rua Corrêa Dutra 39B, Catete; ☎ 10am-10pm)

Central Fone (Map pp144-5; basement level, Av Rio Branco 156, Centro; ☎ 9am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat)

Cyber Café Fundação Progresso (Map pp144-5; Rua dos Arcos 24, Lapa)

Internet Resources

www.ipanema.com Dubbed 'the insider's guide to Rio,' this website has excellent up-to-date city info.

www.riodejaneiro-turismo.com.br Riotur's comprehensive website, in Portuguese and English.

Laundry

A drop-off, wash-and-fold service costs around R\$15 per load.

Laundromat (Map pp140-1; Rua Barata Ribeiro 181B, Copacabana) Across from the metro station.

Laundromat (Map pp140-1; Av NS de Copacabana 1226, Copacabana)

Media

Rio's main daily papers are *Jornal do Brasil* (www.jbonline.com.br) and *O Globo* (www.globo.com.br). Both have entertainment and

event listings, particularly strong on Thursday and Sunday. The national publication *Veja* has a *Veja Rio* insert, which details weekly entertainment options (it comes out on Sunday).

Medical Services

There are scores of pharmacies in town, a number of which stay open 24 hours, including two branches of **Drogaria Pacheco** Av NS de Copacabana 115 (Map pp140-1; Av NS de Copacabana 115, Copacabana; ☎ 24hr); Av NS de Copacabana 534 (Map pp140-1; Av NS de Copacabana 534, Copacabana; ☎ 24hr); Rua Visconde de Pirajá (Map pp138-9; Rua Visconde de Pirajá, Ipanema) and **Farmácia do Leme** (Map pp140-1; Av Prado Júnior 231, Copacabana; ☎ 24hr). Meanwhile, in Leblon, **Farmácia Piauí** (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2274 8448; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1283, Leblon; ☎ 24hr) also stays open 24 hours.

For medical emergencies visit one of the following:

Hospital Ipanema (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3111 2300; Rua Antônio Parreiras 67, Ipanema)

Miguel Couto Hospital (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2274 2121; Av Bartolomeu Mitre 1108, Gávea)

Money

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.

CENTRO

A number of exchange offices can be found on either side of Av Rio Branco, several blocks north of Av Presidente Vargas. Other options include the following, located on Map pp144-5:

Banco 24 Horas (near Av Rio Branco) ATM outside Carioca metro stop.

Banco do Brasil (Rua Senador Dantas 105) ATM on 1st floor, money exchange on 2nd fl.

Casa Aliança (☎ 2224 4617; Rua Miguel Couto 35C) ☎ 9am-5:30pm) A recommended *câmbio*.

Citibank (Rua da Assembléia 100) Has ATM and money exchange.

HSBC (Praça Floriano 23) ATM.

COPACABANA

Câmbios can be found on Av NS de Copacabana, right near the Copacabana Palace hotel. The following places are also on the main streets of Copacabana; see Map pp140-1.

American Express (Av Atlântica 1702, Copacabana) The usual Amex services.

Banco do Brasil (Av NS de Copacabana 1292) ATM.

Banco do Brasil (Av NS de Copacabana 594) Money exchange.

Casa Universal (Av NS de Copacabana 371) A recommended *câmbio*.

Citibank (Av NS de Copacabana 828) ATM.

HSBC (Av Princesa Isabel 186) ATM.

IPANEMA

Find other *câmbios* scattered along Rua Visconde de Pirajá, west of Praça NS de Paz.

Citibank (Map pp138-9; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 459A, Ipanema) ATM and money exchange.

Post

Most *correios* (post offices) open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and on Saturday until noon. Any mail addressed to Posta Restante, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ends up at the **main post office** (Map pp144-5; Rua Primeiro de Março 64, Centro).

Other branches include the following:

Botafogo post office (Map pp142-3; Praia de Botafogo 324, Botafogo)

Copacabana post office (Map pp140-1; Av NS de Copacabana 540, Copacabana)

Ipanema post office (Map pp138-9; Rua Prudente de Moraes 147, Ipanema)

Telephone

For local telephone calls – and other calls within Brazil – you will need to buy a *cartão telefônico* (phone card; R\$5 to R\$20). These cards are available from newsstands and street vendors. See p707 for more info. Many internet cafés offer an international calling service, and Skype is also widely available.

Central Fone (Map pp138-9; Rua Teixeira de Melo 47, Ipanema; ☎ 9:30am-9:30pm)

Fone Rio (Map pp140-1; Rua Constante Ramos 22, Copacabana; ☎ 9am-midnight)

Locutório (Map pp140-1; Av NS de Copacabana 1171, Copacabana; ☎ 8-2am)

Tele Rede (Map pp140-1; Av NS de Copacabana 209A, Copacabana; ☎ 8-2am)

Central Fone (Map pp144-5; basement level, Av Rio Branco 156, Centro; ☎ 9am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat)

Tourist Information

Riotur is Rio's tourism agency. It has a tourist information hot line called **Alô Rio** (☎ toll-free in Brazil 0800-285 0555, 2542 8080; ☎ 9am-6pm). The helpful receptionists speak English. Riotur's useful multilingual website, www.riodejaneiro-turismo.com.br, is also a good source of information.

All of the Riotur offices distribute maps and the excellent (and updated) quarterly *Rio Guide*, listing the major events of the season. The **Riotur Centro** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2588 9134; 9th fl, Rua Assembléia 10, Centro; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) is the best office for obtaining information. English-speaking staff are always on hand, and they'll call around for you to find a hotel if you show up without a reservation. There is a second branch in **Copacabana** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2541 7522; Av Princesa Isabel 183, Copacabana; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri). At the tourist offices, you can also pick up a **Riopass** (www.riopass.com), a free discount card launched in 2007 that gives 5% to 15% off certain shops and restaurants.

Riotur also has the following information booths:

Aeroporto Galeão (Map p137; Arrival Terminals 1 & 2; ☎ 6am-midnight)

Rodoviária Novo Rio (Map pp146-7; Av Francisco Bicalho, São Cristóvão; ☎ 8am-8pm)

Travel Agencies

American Express (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2548 2148; Av Atlântica 1702, Copacabana CEP 20040; ☎ 9am-5:30pm Mon-Fri)

Andes Sol (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2275 4370; Av NS de Copacabana 209, Copacabana) A good multilingual agency.

Casa Aliança (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2224 4617; [casaaalianca@casaaalianca.com.br](mailto:casaalianca@casaaalianca.com.br); Rua Miguel Couto 35C, Centro; ☎ 9am-5:30pm)

G Brazil (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 4431; www.gbrazil.com; Suíte 303, Rua Farme de Amoedo 76, Ipanema) Rio's gay specialist.

Le Bon Voyage (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2287 4403; lebonvoyage@hotmail.com; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 82, Ipanema)

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Rio is indeed a crime-ridden city. But if you travel sensibly when visiting, you will likely suffer nothing worse than a few bad hangovers. All the same, theft is not uncommon, and you should do what you can to minimize the risks of getting robbed.

Buses are well-known targets for thieves. Avoid taking them after dark, and keep an eye

out while you're on them. Take taxis at night to avoid walking along empty streets, and never walk on the beach at night. Centro, which is deserted in the evening and on weekends, should only be explored during weekdays.

Purse- and bag-snatching is extremely common on the beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema, where thieves work with lightning speed. Always keep an eye on your stuff and don't take anything of value to the beach. Unfortunately, armed robberies are on the rise and have occurred on the streets of Lapa, Santa Teresa and Copacabana (where 40% of the city's tourist robberies occur).

Maracanã Football Stadium is worth a visit, but take only spending money for the day and avoid the crowded sections. Don't wander into the *favelas* unless you're with a guide who really knows the area.

If you have the misfortune of being robbed, slowly hand over the goods. Thieves in the city are only too willing to use their weapons.

Scams

A common beach scam is for one thief to approach you from one side and ask you for a light or the time. While you're distracted, the thief's partner grabs your gear from the other side.

SIGHTS

The once mighty 'capital of the Brazilian empire' (as one Portuguese king called it), Rio has much more than just pretty beaches. From the bohemian lanes of old Santa Teresa to the village-like charm of Urca, Rio's colonial streets, magnificent churches and leafy plazas provide urban wanderers with days of exploration. Its lake (Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas), the lush Jardim Botânico (Botanical Gardens) and the Atlantic rain forest still trimming many parts of the city make for idyllic retreats after discovering its historic center. There are also the fantastic overlooks from Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf) and Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer), tranquil islands in the bay, wildly beautiful beaches to the west, and vibrant markets, with vendors peddling everything from vintage bossa records to tangy *jabuticaba* (a native fruit).

Ipanema & Leblon

Truly among the world's most enchanting addresses, Ipanema and Leblon are blessed with a magnificent beach and open-air cafés,

A VISIONARY PLAN FOR A TROUBLED STATE

In Brazil, where it's business-as-usual in many public offices, Sérgio Cabral, the 44-year-old newly elected governor of Rio brings a bold new vision to the state.

One of Cabral's role models is former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani, whose 'zero tolerance' crime policies are often credited with cleaning up the city. Cabral has promised to root out corruption in the police force and bring reform to a justice system of short sentences, rampant inefficiencies and often bribed officials. He plans to build more prisons to alleviate the overcrowding that stigmatizes the Brazilian penal system.

Cabral seems determined. He has already moved some of the most dangerous criminals from local prisons to a new facility in another state, where their influence and means of communicating with gang leaders will be compromised. In his first four months in office, he fired more than 100 police officers and has said that perhaps as many as 10,000 of Rio's military police are corrupt.

Cabral plans to bring new roads and city services into *favelas*, hoping to break the stranglehold gangs have on communities there. He has jumpstarted a family-planning program in poor neighborhoods, making condoms and the pill more widely available.

Critics of Cabral's 'tough-on-crime' approach say it's the same message that's been tried and has failed in the past. Whether Cabral brings meaningful change to Rio will undoubtedly play out on city streets in the coming years.

bars and restaurants scattered along tree-lined streets. This is Rio's premier zip code and favored stomping ground for wealthy Cariocas, young and old, gay and straight.

Ipanema acquired international fame in the early '60s as the home of the bossa nova character 'The Girl from Ipanema.' It became the hangout of artists, intellectuals and wealthy liberals, who frequented the sidewalk cafés and bars. After the 1964 military coup and the resulting crackdown on liberals, many of these bohemians were forced into exile. During the '70s, Leblon became the nightlife center of Rio. The restaurants and bars of Baixo (Lower) Leblon, on Av Ataulfo de Paiva, between Ruas Aristides Espínola and General Artigas, were the meeting points for a new generation of artists and musicians. Evenings continue to be very animated here today, even though the heart of Rio's nightlife has moved to Lapa.

IPANEMA & LEBLON BEACHES

Although the beaches of Ipanema and Leblon (Map pp138-9) are really one long beach, the *postos* (posts) along them subdivide the beach into areas as diverse as the city itself. **Posto 9**, right off Rua Vinícius de Moraes, is **Garota de Ipanema**, which is where Rio's most lithe and tanned bodies tend to migrate. The area is also known as the **Cemitério dos Elefantes** because of the old leftists, hippies and artists who hang out there. The beach in front of Rua Farme de Amoedo, also called **Bolsa de Valores** and **Crystal Palace**, is the gay section, while **Posto 8**

is mostly the domain of *favela* kids. **Arpoador**, between Ipanema and Copacabana, is Rio's most popular surf spot, while Leblon attracts a broad mix of Cariocas.

Whatever spot you choose, you'll enjoy cleaner sands and sea than those found in neighboring Copacabana. Keep in mind that if you go on Saturday or Sunday, it gets very crowded. Incidentally, the word *ipanema* is Indian for 'bad, dangerous waters' – an apt description given the strong undertow and often oversized waves crashing on the shore. Be careful, and swim only where the locals do.

A few fishermen, casting out to sea, mingle with couples admiring the view from the lookout known as **Mirante do Leblon**, at the west end of Leblon Beach, stretching down Leblon and Ipanema Beaches.

MUSEU H STERN

The headquarters of H Stern, the famous jeweler, contains the **Museu H Stern** (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2274 3447; www.hstern.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Garcia D'Ávila 113; admission free; ☎ 8:30am-6pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat), an interesting fine-jewelry museum.

If you're in the market for it, the adjoining store has an array of finely crafted jewelry, watches and other accessories for sale.

MUSEU AMSTERDAM SAUER

Next door to Museu H Stern, the **Museu Amsterdam Sauer** (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 1132; www.amsterdamsauer.com; Rua Garcia D'Ávila 105; admission free; ☎ 9:30am-2:30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) also houses

an impressive collection of precious stones – over 3000 items in all. It also has two life-size replicas of mines.

Like H Stern, the Amsterdam Sauer store is the place to lay down some serious cash if you're looking for precious gems or well-made accessories.

Gávea, Jardim Botânico & Lagoa

Beginning just north of Ipanema and Leblon, these well-heeled neighborhoods front the Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas, a picturesque saltwater lagoon ringed with a walking/biking trail and dotted with lakeside kiosks serving cuisine alfresco and live music on warm nights. The other big draw here is the royal garden (Jardim Botânico) that gave the neighborhood its name. Here you'll find stately palms, rare orchids and colorful flowering plants. Aside from its natural attractions, these neighborhoods have some excellent restaurants, trendy bars, a planetarium and the city's horseracing track.

JARDIM BOTÂNICO

The exotic **Jardim Botânico** (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3874 1808; www.jbrj.gov.br; Rua Jardim Botânico 920, Jardim Botânico; admission R\$4; ☞ 8am-5pm), housing over 5000 varieties of plant, was designed by order of the Prince Regent Dom João in 1808. It's quiet and serene on weekdays and blossoms with families and music on weekends. A pleasant outdoor café overlooks the gardens.

LAGOA RODRIGO DE FREITAS

One of the city's most picturesque spots, **Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas** (Map pp138-9) is encircled by a 7.2km cycling/walking path. Bikes are available for hire (R\$16 per hour) near **Parque Brigadeiro Faria Lima**, as are paddle boats (R\$25 per half hour). For those who prefer *caipirinhas* (drinks made from sugarcane spirit, crushed lime, sugar and ice) to plastic swan boats, the kiosks on either side of the lake offer food and drinks, often accompanied by live music.

PARQUE DA CATACUMBA

Brazil's first outdoor sculptural garden, **Parque da Catacumba** (Map pp138-9; Av Epitácio Pessoa, Lagoa; ☞ 8am-7pm) sits atop the Morro dos Cabritos, which rises from the Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas. During the summer, Catacumba often hosts free Sunday-afternoon concerts in its outdoor amphitheater.

SUNDAY SUNNY SUNDAY

Many museums in Rio are free on Sunday, making it a good day to pack in your sight-seeing. If the weather is simply too lovely for staying indoors, head to the shore. Sunday is also the day when the beachfront road running from Leblon to Leme closes to traffic. Cyclists, joggers and skaters fill the seaside lanes; further north, the road through Parque do Flamengo also closes to traffic.

PARQUE LAGE

Beautiful **Parque Lage** (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2527 2397; www.eavparquelage.org.br; Rua Jardim Botânico 414, Jardim Botânico; ☞ 8am-5pm) has English-style gardens, little lakes and the **Escola de Artes Visuais** (School of Visual Arts), which often hosts art exhibitions and an occasional performance. A lovely café lies on the grounds.

PARQUE DA CIDADE & MUSEU HISTÓRICO DA CIDADE

The 19th-century mansion on the lovely grounds of the **Parque da Cidade** (Map pp138-9; admission free; ☞ 7am-6pm) now houses the **Museu Histórico da Cidade** (City History Museum; ☎ 2512 2353; Estrada de Santa Marinha 505, Gávea; admission R\$6; ☞ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun), which portrays Rio from its founding in 1565 to the mid-20th century. The museum also has exhibitions of furniture, porcelain, photographs and paintings by well-known artists.

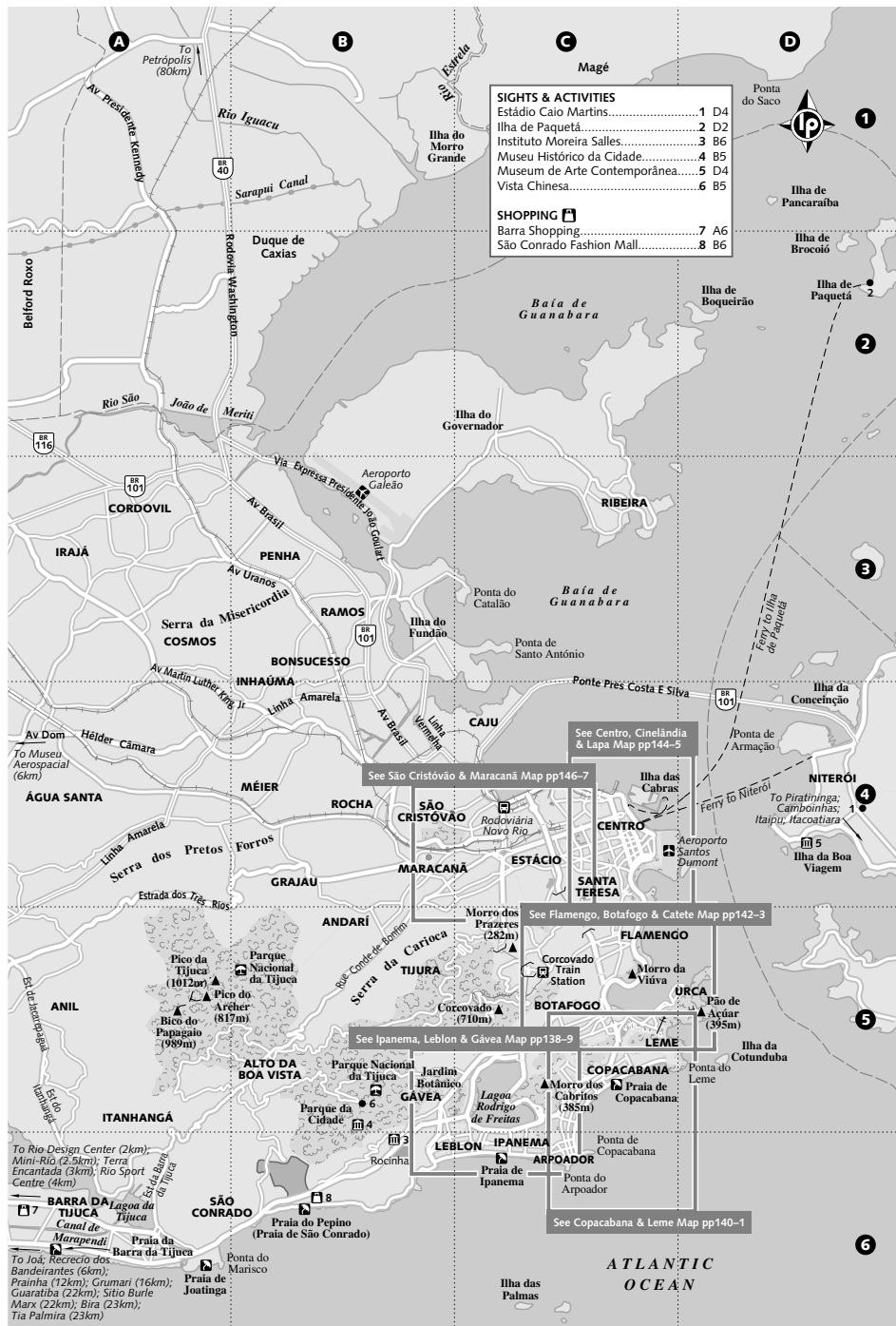
INSTITUTO MOREIRA SALLES

The beautiful **Instituto Moreira Salles** (Map p137; ☎ 3284 7400; www.ims.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Marquês de São Vicente 476, Gávea; admission free; ☞ 1-8pm Tue-Sun), next to the Parque da Cidade, contains an archive of more than 80,000 photographs, many portraying old streets of Rio. The gardens, complete with artificial lake and flowing river, were designed by Brazilian landscape architect Burle Marx. There's also a craft shop and a café serving lunch and afternoon tea.

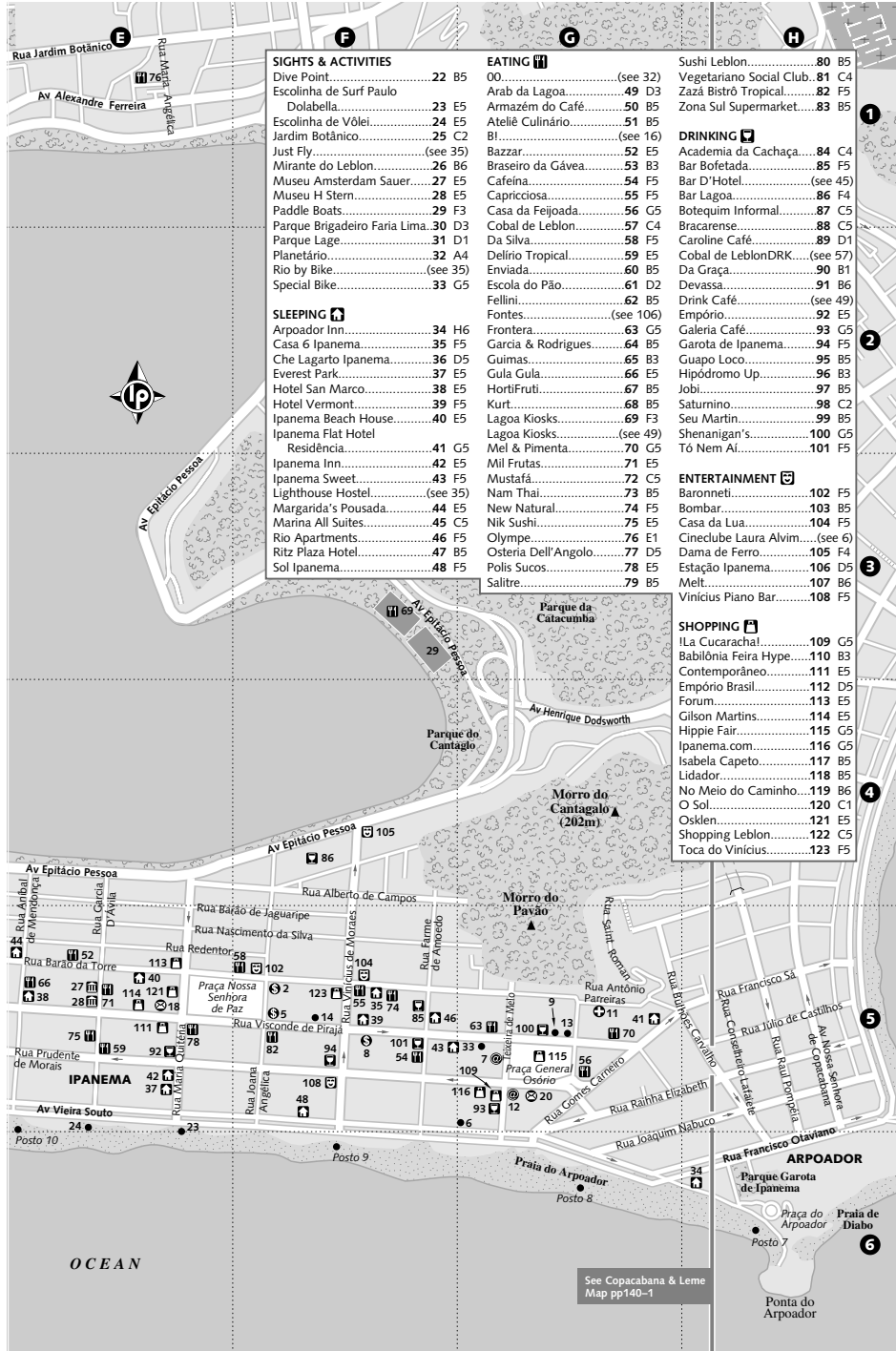
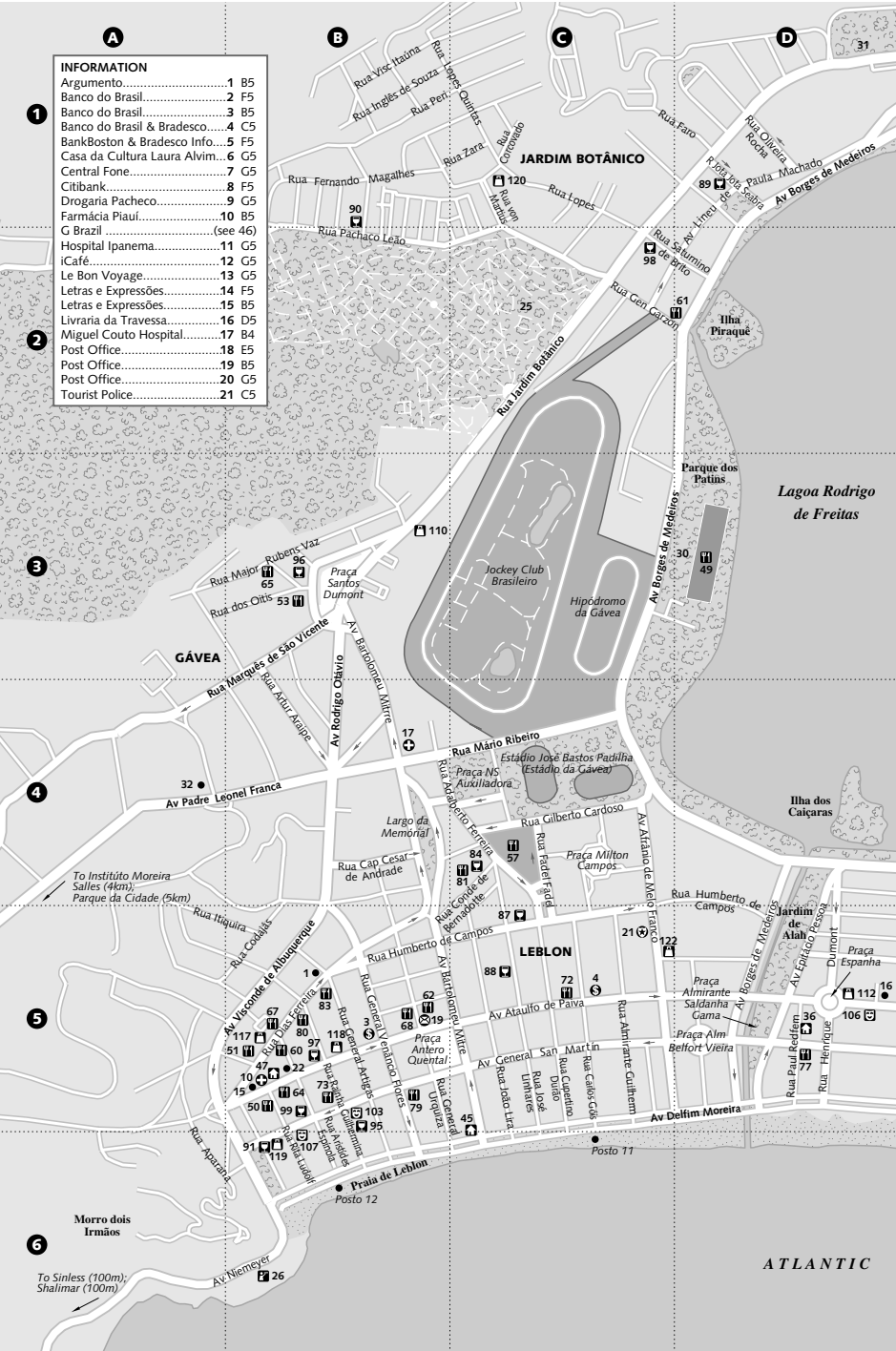
PLANETÁRIO

Gávea's stellar attraction, the **Planetário** (Planetarium; Map pp138-9; ☎ 3523 4040; www.rio.rj.gov.br/planetario in Portuguese; Av Padre Leonel Franca 240, Gávea; admission R\$6; ☞ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 3-7pm

(Continued on page 148)



INFORMATION	
Argumento.....	1 B5
Banco do Brasil.....	2 F5
Banco do Brasil.....	3 B5
Banco do Brasil & Bradesco.....	4 C5
BankBoston & Bradesco Info.....	5 F5
Casa da Cultura Laura Alvim.....	6 G5
Central Fone.....	7 G5
Citibank.....	8 F5
Drogaria Pacheco.....	9 G5
Farmácia Piauí.....	10 B5
G Brazil.....	(see 46)
Hospital Ipanema.....	11 G5
ICafé.....	12 G5
Le Bon Voyage.....	13 G5
Letras e Expressões.....	14 F5
Letras e Expressões.....	15 B5
Livraria da Travessa.....	16 D5
Miguel Couto Hospital.....	17 B4
Post Office.....	18 E5
Post Office.....	19 B5
Post Office.....	20 G5
Tourist Police.....	21 C5



SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	
Dive Point.....	22 B5
Escolinha de Surf Paulo Dolabella.....	23 E5
Escolinha de Vôlei.....	24 E5
Jardim Botânico.....	25 C2
Just Fly.....	(see 35)
Mirante do Leblon.....	27 E5
Museu Amsterdam Sauer.....	27 E5
Museu H Stern.....	28 E5
Paddle Boats.....	29 F3
Parque Brigadeiro Faria Lima.....	30 D3
Parque Lage.....	31 D1
Planetário.....	32 A4
Rio by Bike.....	(see 35)
Special Bike.....	33 G5

EATING	
Arab da Lagoa.....	(see 32)
Armazém do Café.....	50 B5
Atelê Culinário.....	51 B5
BI.....	(see 16)
Bazzar.....	52 E5
Brasero da Gávea.....	53 B3
Cafeína.....	54 F5
Capriciosa.....	55 F5
Casa da Feijoada.....	56 G5
Cobal de Leblon.....	57 C4
Da Silva.....	58 F5
Delírio Tropical.....	59 E5
Enviada.....	60 B5
Escola do Pão.....	61 D2
Fellini.....	62 B5
Fontes.....	(see 106)
Frontera.....	63 G5
Garcia & Rodrigues.....	64 B5
Guimas.....	65 B3
Gula Gula.....	66 E5
HortiFruti.....	67 B5
Kurt.....	68 B5
Lagoa Kiosks.....	69 F3
Lagoa Kiosks.....	(see 49)
Mel & Pimenta.....	70 G5
Mil Frutas.....	71 E5
Mustafa.....	72 C5
Nam Thai.....	73 B5
New Natural.....	74 E5
Nik Sushi.....	75 F5
Olympe.....	76 E1
Osteria Dell'Angolo.....	77 D5
Polis Sucos.....	78 E5
Saltire.....	79 B5

DRINKING	
Academia da Cachaça.....	84 C4
Bar Bufetada.....	85 F5
Bar D'Hotel.....	(see 45)
Bar Lagoa.....	86 F4
Boteguim Informal.....	87 C5
Bracarense.....	88 C5
Caroline Café.....	89 D1
Coba de LeblonDRK.....	(see 57)
Da Garrafa.....	90 B1
Devassa.....	91 B6
Drink Café.....	(see 49)
Empório.....	92 E5
Galeria Café.....	93 G5
Garota de Ipanema.....	94 F5
Guapo Loco.....	95 B5
Hipódromo Up.....	96 B3
Jobi.....	97 B5
Saturnino.....	98 C2
Seu Martin.....	99 B5
Shenanigan's.....	100 G5
Tô Nem AI.....	101 F5

ENTERTAINMENT	
Baronnelli.....	102 F5
Bombard.....	103 B5
Casa da Lua.....	104 F5
Cineclube Laura Alvim.....	(see 6)
Dama de Ferro.....	105 F4
Estação Ipanema.....	106 D5
Melt.....	107 B6
Vinicius Piano Bar.....	108 F5

SHOPPING	
Ilá Cucaracha.....	109 G5
Babilônia Feira Hype.....	110 B3
Contemporâneo.....	111 E5
Empório Brasil.....	112 D5
Forum.....	113 E5
Gilson Martins.....	114 E5
Hippie Fair.....	115 G5
Ipanema.com.....	116 G5
Isabela Capeto.....	117 B5
Lidador.....	118 B5
No Meio do Caminho.....	119 B6
O Sol.....	120 C1
Osklen.....	121 E5
Shopping Leblon.....	122 C5
Toca do Vinicius.....	123 F5

ATLANTIC

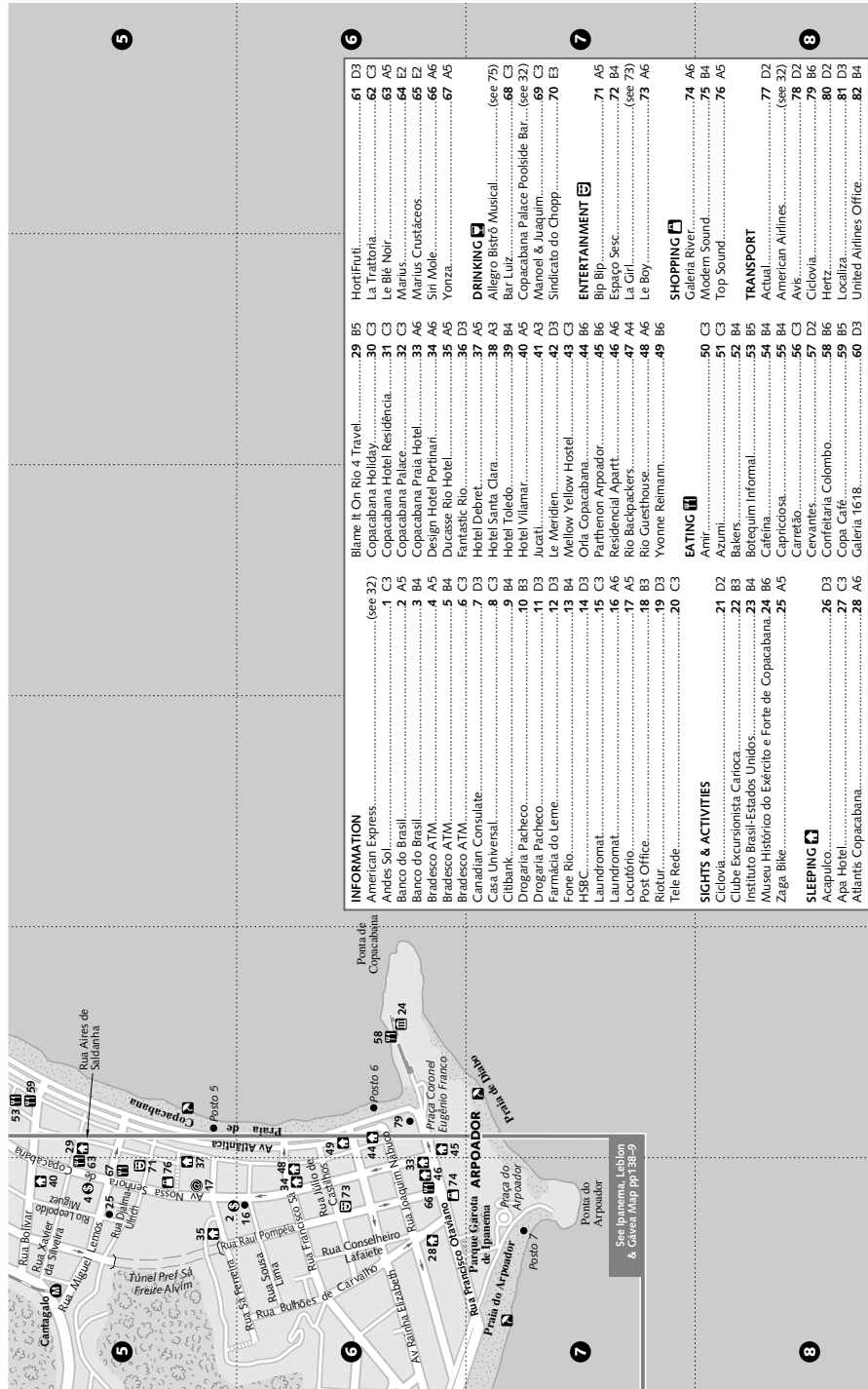
OCEAN

See Copacabana & Leme Map pp140-1



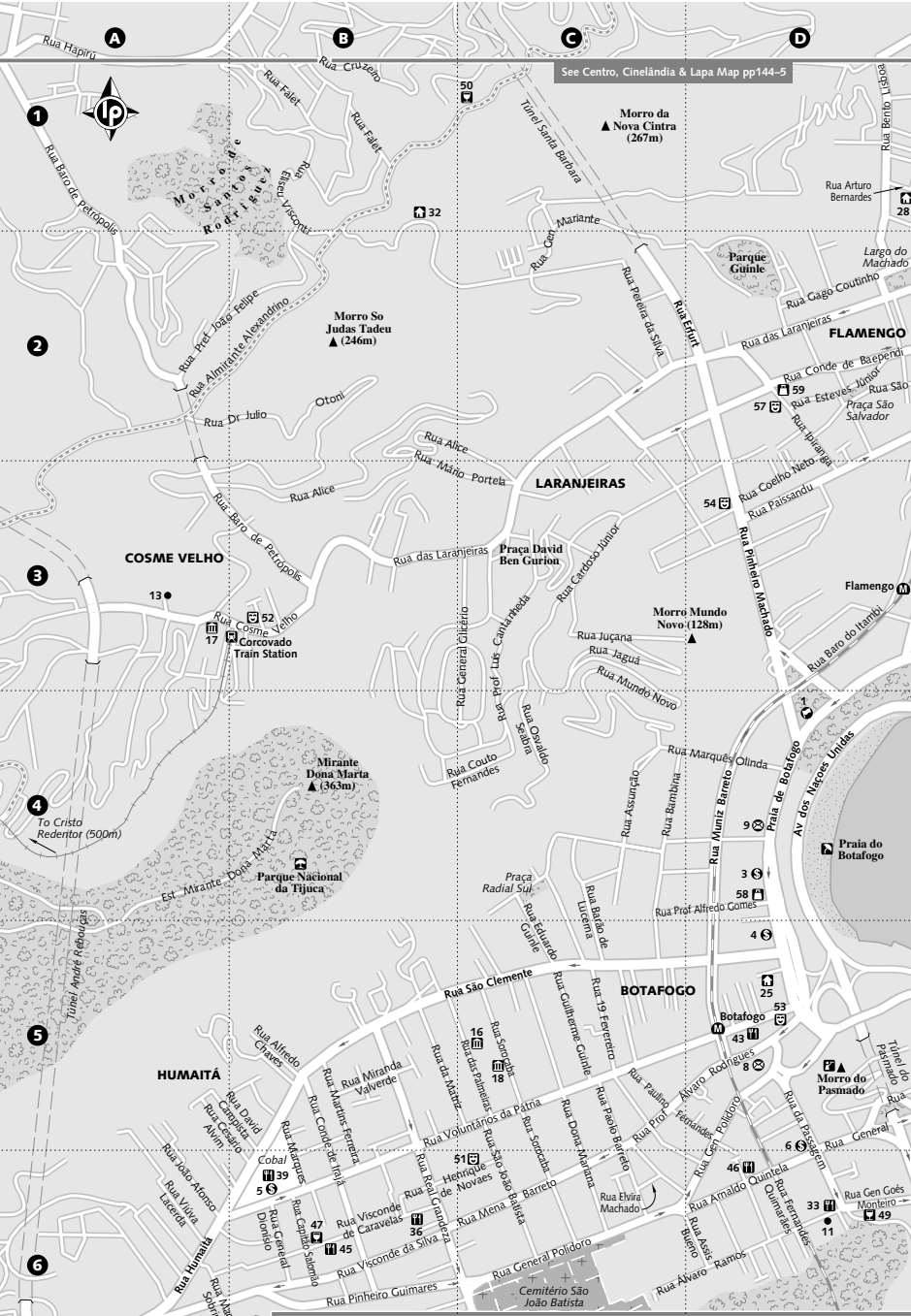
See Flamengo, Botafogo & Cidade Map pp 442-3

See Ipanema, Leblon & Gávea Map pp 138-9



INFORMATION	Blame It On Rio 4 Travel	29 B5	61 D3
American Express	Copacabana Holiday	30 C3	62 C3
Andes Sol	Copacabana Hotel Residência	31 C3	63 A5
Banco do Brasil	Copacabana Palace	32 C3	63 E2
Bradesco ATM	Design Hotel Portinari	33 A6	65 E2
Bradesco ATM	Ducasse Rio Hotel	34 A6	66 A6
Bradesco ATM	Fantastic Rio	35 A5	67 A5
Canadian Consulate	Hotel Debret	36 D3	
Casa Universal	Hotel Santa Clara	37 A3	(see 75)
Citibank	Hotel Toledo	38 A3	68 C3
Drogaria Pacheco	Hotel Vilamar	39 B4	(see 32)
Drogaria Pacheco	Juruti	40 A5	Copacabana Palace Poolside Bar
Farmácia do Leme	Le Meridien	41 A3	69 C3
Fone Rio	Mellow Yellow Hostel	42 D3	70 E3
H5RC	Oleá Copacabana	43 C3	
Laundromat	Parthenon Apporador	44 B6	
Laundromat	Residencial Apart	45 B6	
Louçorion	Rio Backpackers	46 A6	
Post Office	Rio Guesthouse	47 A4	
Riotur	Yvonne Remann	48 A6	
Tele Rede		49 B6	
	EATING		
	Anir	50 C3	74 A6
	Azumi	51 C3	75 B4
	Bakers	52 B3	76 A5
	Bakers Informal	53 B5	
	Cafeteria	54 B4	TRANSPORT
	Capriciosa	55 B4	Actual
	Carreção	56 C3	American Airlines
	Confeiteira Colombo	57 D2	(see 32)
	Copa Caffé	58 B6	77 D2
	Galeria 1618	59 B5	78 D2
		60 D3	80 D2
			81 D3
			82 B4

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	Citoviva	21 D2
Citoviva	Club Esportista Carioca	22 B3
Club Esportista Carioca	Museu Histórico do Exército e Forte de Copacabana	23 B4
Museu Histórico do Exército e Forte de Copacabana	Zaga Bike	24 B6
Zaga Bike		25 A5
	SLEEPING	
	Acapulo	26 D3
	Apá Hotel	27 C3
	Atlantis Copacabana	28 A6



INFORMATION	
Argentinian Embassy.....	1 D4
Banco do Brasil.....	2 E1
Banco do Brasil.....	3 D4
Bradesco ATM.....	4 D5
Bradesco ATM.....	5 B6
Bradesco ATM.....	6 D5
Eurogames.....	7 E1
Livraria PrefácioINF.....	(see 43)
Post Office.....	8 D4
Post Office.....	9 D5
UK Embassy.....	10 E2

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	
Casa de Dança Carlinhos de Jesus.....	11 D6
Centro Cultural Telemar.....	12 E2
Largo do Boticário.....	13 A3
Museu Carmen Miranda.....	14 E4
Museu da República.....	(see 19)
Museu de Folclórico Edson Carneiro.....	15 E1
Museu do Índio.....	16 C5
Museu Internacional de Arte Naïf do Brasil.....	17 A3
Museu Villa-Lobos.....	18 C5
Palácio do Catete.....	19 E1
Pão de Açúcar.....	20 H5
Parque do Catete.....	21 E1
Parque do Flamengo.....	22 E2
Pista Cláudio Coutinho.....	23 G5
Trilharte Ecoturismo.....	24 E2

SLEEPING	
El Misti Hostel.....	25 D5
Hotel Caxambu.....	26 E1
Hotel Ferreira Viana.....	27 E1
Hotel Monterey.....	28 D1
Hotel Rázior.....	29 E1
Imperial Hotel.....	30 E1
Mengo Palace Hotel.....	31 E1
Pousada Favelinha.....	32 B1

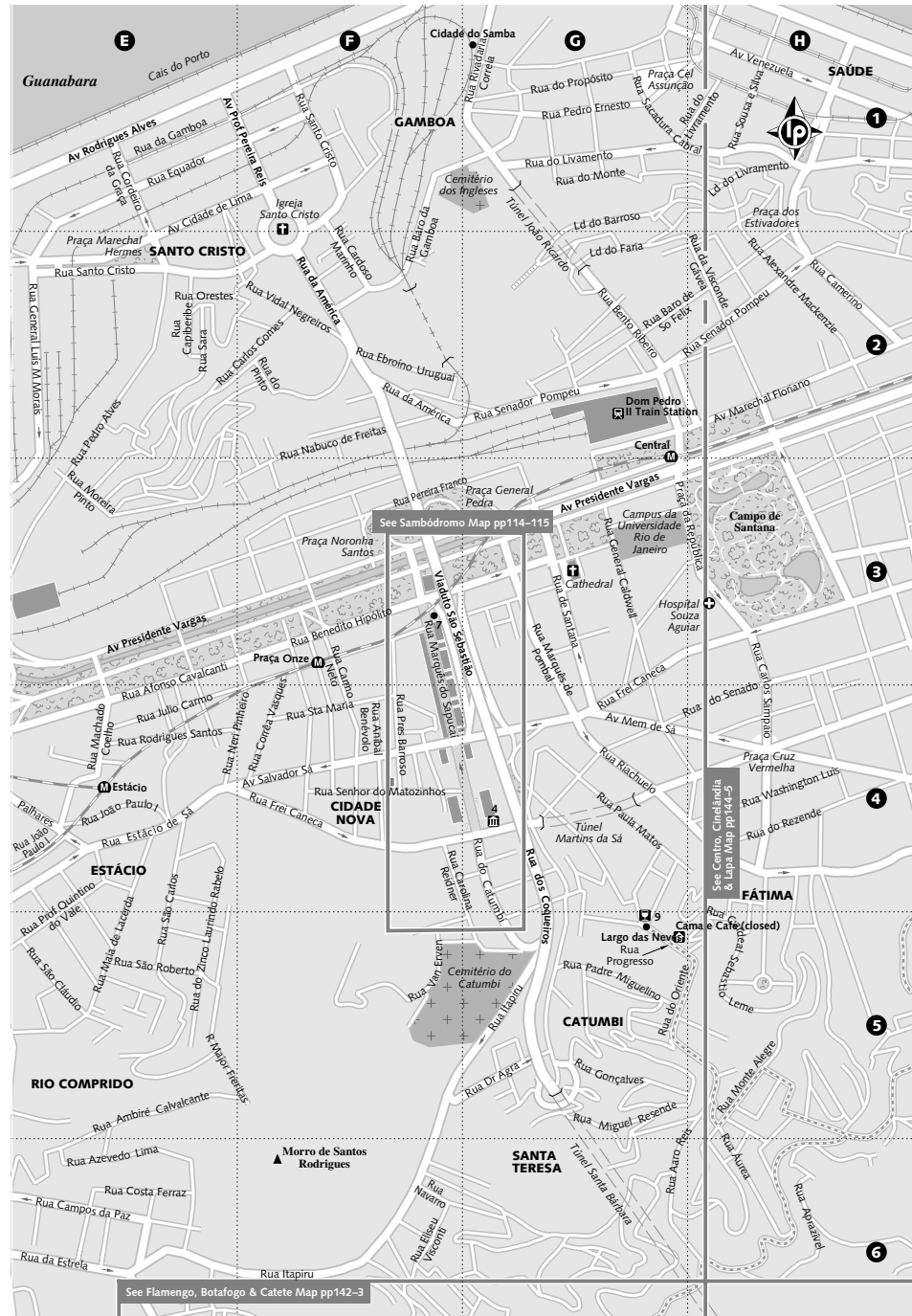
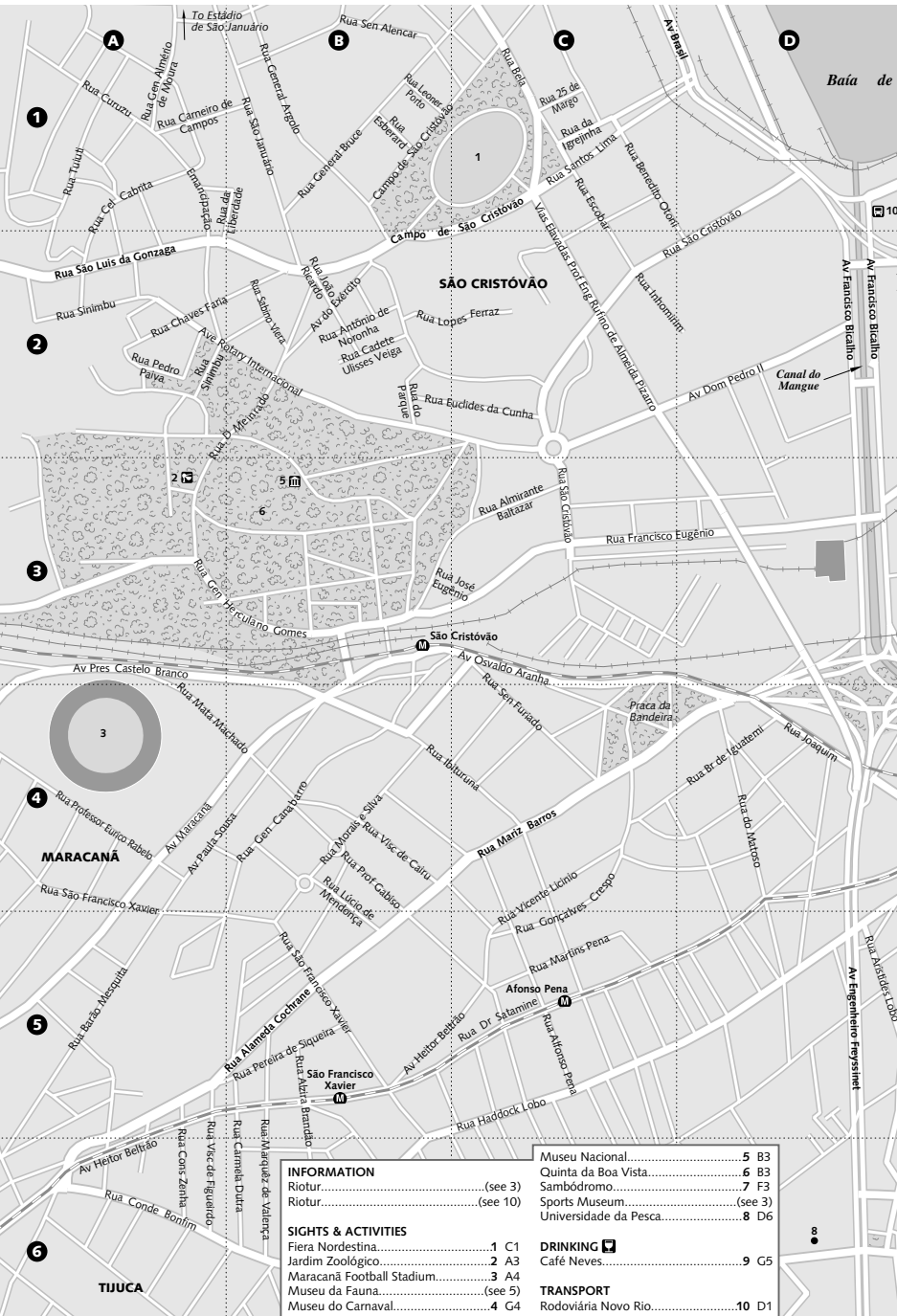
EATING	
Adega do Valentim.....	33 D6
Armazem do Chopp.....	34 E3
Belmonte.....	35 E2
Boteguim Informal.....	(see 58)
Carême.....	36 B6
Catete Grill.....	37 E1
Churrascaria Majórica.....	38 E2
Cobal de Humaitá.....	39 B6
Estação Paulista.....	40 E1
Galeta da Urca.....	41 G4
Lamas.....	42 E2
Livraria Prefácio.....	43 D5
Porcão Rio's.....	44 F3
Stravaganze.....	45 B6
Yorubá.....	46 D6

DRINKING	
Aurora.....	47 B6
Bar Urca.....	48 G4
Miam Miami.....	49 D6
Mike's Haus.....	50 C1

ENTERTAINMENT	
Casa da Matriz.....	51 C6
Clan Café.....	52 B3
Espaço Unibanco de Cinema.....	53 D5
Fluminense Football Stadium.....	54 D3
Praia Vermelha.....	55 F6
São Luiz.....	56 E2
Severyna.....	57 D2

SHOPPING	
Botafogo Praia Shopping.....	58 D4
Pé de Boi.....	59 D2
Rio Sul.....	60 E6

TRANSPORT	
Buses to Centro or Zona Sul.....	61 F5



(Continued from page 128)

Sat & Sun) features a museum, a *praça dos telescópios* (plaza of telescopes) and two state-of-the-art operating domes, each capable of projecting over 6000 stars on its walls. Several times a week, there are guided observations (R\$6 extra), several through the far-reaching telescopes. Periodically, the Planetário plays host to live concerts. Its hypermodern **Museu do Universo** (Universe Museum) houses permanent exhibitions.

Copacabana & Leme

Framed by mountains and deep blue sea, Rio's most beautiful beach curves 4.5km from end to end. No longer a symbol of Rio's glam, Copacabana is a fascinating but chaotic place, its art-deco buildings, aging beachfront hotels and tree-lined sidestreets form the backdrop to a wildly democratic mix of tourists, elderly middle-class Cariocas, and *favela* dwellers (who live in the hillsides surrounding the neighborhood). Despite its faults (crime for one), the neighborhood has its charms – old-school *botecos* (small, open-air bars), eclectic restaurants, vibrant street life, and the handsome beach still entrance some visitors.

The name Copacabana comes from a small Bolivian village on Lake Titicaca. Historians believe a statue of the Virgin Mary (Our Lady of Copacabana) was brought to Rio and consecrated inside a small chapel near Arpoador. Copacabana remained a small fishing village until Túnel Velho opened in 1891, connecting Copacabana with the rest of the city. The construction of the neoclassical Copacabana Palace hotel in 1923 heralded Copacabana's golden era as a tropical getaway for the rich and fabulous. Copacabana remained Rio's gem until the 1970s, when the area began the fall into decline.

COPACABANA & LEME BEACH

A magnificent confluence of land and sea, the long, scalloped beach of Copacabana and Leme (Map pp140–1) always has a flurry of activity stretching its length: overamped footballers singing their team's anthem, Cariocas and tourists lining up for *caipirinhas* at kiosks, *favela* kids showing off their football skills, and beach vendors picking their way through the mass of bronzed bodies.

As in Ipanema, each group stakes out its stretch of sand. Leme is a mix of older resi-

dents and *favela* kids, while the area between the Copacabana Palace and Rua Fernando Mendes is the gay and transvestite section, known as the Stock or Stock Market – easily recognized by the rainbow flag. Young football and *futevôlei* (volleyball played without hands) players hold court near Rua Santa Clara. Posts 5 and 6 are a mix of *favela* kids and Carioca retirees, while the beach next to the Forte de Copacabana is the unofficial *posto de pescadores* (fishermen's post). In the morning, you can buy the fresh catch of the day.

The beach is lit at night and there are police in the area, but it's still not wise to walk there after dark – stay on the hotel side of Av Atlântica if you take a stroll. Av NS de Copacabana is also dangerous – watch out on weekends, when the shops are closed and few locals are around.

MUSEU HISTÓRICO DO EXÉRCITO E FORTE DE COPACABANA

Built in 1914, on the promontory of the former Our Lady of Copacabana chapel, the Forte de Copacabana (Copacabana Fort) was one of Rio's premier defenses against attack. You can still see its original features, including walls up to 12m thick, defended by Krupp cannons. The several floors of exhibits in the **Museu Histórico do Exército e Forte de Copacabana** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2521 1032; cnr Av Atlântica & Rua Francisco Otaviano, Copacabana; admission R\$4; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Sun), tracing the early days of the Portuguese colony to the mid-19th century, aren't the most tastefully done, but the view alone warrants a visit. There's a lovely café overlooking Copacabana.

Botafogo

A largely middle-class residential area, Botafogo lacks the sensuality of Ipanema and the decadence of Copacabana, but it's one of Rio's most traditional neighborhoods. It boasts small museums, excellent theaters, quaint bookstores, neighborhood bars and a welcome shortage of high-rise buildings.

The area attained prominence in the late 1800s when the Portuguese court arrived in Brazil. Dom João VI's wife, Carlota Joaquina, had a country villa built in Botafogo with convenient access to Baía de Guanabara, one of her favorite bathing spots. With royalty established in the area, many mansions were constructed, some of which still stand – as schools, theaters and cultural centers.

MUSEU DO ÍNDIO

Featuring multimedia exhibitions on Brazil's northern tribes, the small **Museu do Índio** (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2286 8899; www.museudoindio.org.br; Rua das Palmeiras 55, Botafogo; admission R\$3, free Sun; ☎ 9:30am-5:30pm Tue-Fri, 1-5pm Sat & Sun) provides an excellent introduction to the economic, religious and social life of Brazil's indigenous people.

MUSEU VILLA-LOBOS

Housed in a century-old building, the modest **Museu Villa-Lobos** (☎ 2266 3845; Rua Sorocaba 200, Botafogo; admission free; ☎ 10am-5:30pm Mon-Fri) is dedicated to the memory of Brazil's greatest classical composer, Heitor Villa-Lobos. Here you'll find personal items, scores and musical instruments, including the piano on which Villa-Lobos composed. The gardens were designed by landscape architect Burle Marx.

Urca

The tranquil, shady streets of Urca offer a pleasant escape from the urban bustle of other parts of the city. An eclectic mix of building styles and manicured gardens lines its streets, with local residents strolling among them. Along the sea wall, which forms the northwestern perimeter of Pão de Açúcar, fishermen cast for dinner as couples lounge beneath palm trees, taking in views of Baía de Guanabara and Cristo Redentor off in the distance. Tiny Praia Vermelha, in the south, has one of Rio's finest beach views. A lovely walking trail begins from here.

Although it was the site of one of the first Portuguese garrisons in the region, almost 300 years elapsed before Urca developed into a residential neighborhood. Today it holds the distinction of being one of the safest and – in spite of Pão de Açúcar being in its midst – least discovered by foreign visitors.

PÃO DE AÇÚCAR

Seen from the peak of **Pão de Açúcar** (Sugarloaf Mountain; Map pp142-3; ☎ 2546 8400; Praça General Tibúrcio, Urca; adult/child R\$35/17.50; ☎ 8am-10pm), Rio is undoubtedly the most beautiful city in the world. There are many good times to make the ascent, but sunset on a clear day is the most rewarding.

A visit to Pão de Açúcar is a must, but if you can, avoid it from about 10am to 11am and 2pm to 3pm, which is when most tourist buses arrive. Avoid cloudy days as well. Two cable cars connect to the summit, 396m above Rio.

The first ascends 220m to **Morro da Urca**. From here, you can see Baía de Guanabara and the winding coastline. On the ocean side of the mountain is Praia Vermelha, in a small, calm bay. Morro da Urca has its own restaurant, souvenir shops, a playground, an outdoor theater and a helipad (for helicopter tours, see p164). Beneath the shadow of Morro da Urca, the narrow **Praia Vermelha** has superb views of the rocky coastline from the shore. Its coarse sand, unlike that of any other beach in Rio, gives the beach the name *vermelha* (red).

The second cable car goes up to Pão de Açúcar. At the top, the city unfolds beneath you, with Corcovado mountain and Cristo Redentor off to the west, and Copacabana Beach to the south. If the breathtaking heights unsteady you, a drink stand serves *caipirinhas* or *cerveja* (beer). The two-stage cable cars depart every 30 minutes.

Those who'd rather take the long way to the summit should sign up with one of the granite-hugging climbing tours offered by various outfits in Rio (see p159).

PISTA CLÁUDIO COUTINHO

A paved 2km path, **Pista Cláudio Coutinho** (Map pp142-3; ☎ 6am-sunset) winds along the southern contour of Morro da Urca. It's a lush area, shaded by trees, with the waves crashing on the rocks below. Keep an eye out for families of small *micos* – capuchin monkeys with ringed tails. About 300m along the path, there's a small unmarked trail that leads up to Morro da Urca. Pão de Açúcar can also be climbed – but it's not recommended without climbing gear.

Flamengo

Flamengo was once Rio's finest residential district, but lost its glitter after the tunnel to Copacabana opened in 1904. Today, Flamengo maintains its largely residential roots. Along tree-shaded sidewalks, old-school restaurants and historic bars lie beside fragrant juice bars and Música Popular Brasileira – playing internet cafés. Flamengo also boasts the Parque do Flamengo, which fronts a scenic beach (too polluted for swimming).

PARQUE DO FLAMENGO

The result of a landfill project that leveled the São Antônio hill in 1965, **Parque do Flamengo** (Map pp142-3 and Map pp144-5) now spreads all the way from downtown Rio

through Glória, Catete and Flamengo, and on around to Botafogo. Cyclists and rollerbladers glide along the paths winding through the park, while the many football fields and sports courts are framed against the sea. On Sunday and holidays, the avenues through the park are closed (from 7am to 6pm), bringing a welcome calm to the verdant park.

Designed by famous Brazilian landscaper Burle Marx (who also landscaped Brasília), the park features some 170,000 trees of 300 different species. In addition there are several museums in the park, including the Museu de Arte Moderna and the Museu Carmen Miranda.

MUSEU DE ARTE MODERNA

At the north end of Parque do Flamengo, the **Museu de Arte Moderna** (MAM; Map pp144-5; ☎ 2240 4944; www.mamrio.org.br in Portuguese; Av Infante Dom Henrique 85, Flamengo; adult/child R\$5/2; ☎ noon-6pm Tue-Fri, to 7pm Sat & Sun) is immediately recognizable by the striking postmodern edifice designed by Alfonso Eduardo Reidy. The landscaping of Burle Marx is no less impressive. After a devastating fire in 1978 that consumed 90% of its collection, the museum is finally back on its feet and now houses 11,000 permanent works, including pieces by Brazilian artists Bruno Giorgi, Emiliano Di Cavalcanti and Maria Martins. You'll find excellent photography and design exhibits, and the cinema hosts regular film festivals throughout the year.

MUSEU CARMEN MIRANDA

Although Carmen Miranda is largely forgotten in Hollywood, the once-great Brazilian singer still has her fans, and has become a cult icon among Rio's gay community. In addition to photographs and music of her era, the tiny **Museu Carmen Miranda** (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2551 2597; facing Av Rui Barbosa 560, Flamengo; adult/child R\$3/1; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Fri, 2-5pm Sat & Sun) showcases the starlet's iconographic costumes and jewelry.

Cosme Velho

Cosme Velho lies west of Laranjeiras and is one of the city's most visited neighborhoods – if only for the statue of Christ the Redeemer soaring above its streets.

CRISTO REDENTOR

Atop Corcovado (which means 'hunchback'), **Cristo Redentor** (Christ the Redeemer; Map pp142-3; ☎ 2558 1329; Cog station: Rua Cosme Velho 513, Cosme Velho; adult/child R\$35/17.50; ☎ 8:30am-6:30pm)

gazes out over Rio, a placid expression on his well-crafted face. The mountain rises straight up from the city to 710m, and at night, the brightly lit, 38m-high statue is visible from nearly every part of the city – all 1145 tons of the open-armed redeemer.

The view from the top of Corcovado provides a spectacular panorama of Rio and its surroundings. Corcovado lies within the Parque Nacional da Tijuca. You can get there by car or taxi (taxi drivers typically charge around R\$60 for return trips with waiting time), but the best way is to go up in the cog train (departures every 30 minutes). For the best view, sit on the right-hand side going up. Be sure to choose a clear day to go up.

LARGO DO BOTICÁRIO

The brightly painted houses on the picturesque square of **Largo do Boticário** (Map pp142-3; Rua Cosme Velho 822) date from the early 19th century. Largo do Boticário was named in honor of the Portuguese gentleman – Joaquim Luiz da Silva Souto – who once ran a *boticário* (apothecary) utilized by the royal family.

MUSEU INTERNACIONAL DE ARTE NAÏF DO BRASIL

The collection of arte naïf (primitivist) paintings in the **Museu Internacional de Arte Naïf do Brasil** (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2205 8612; www.museunaif.com.br; Rua Cosme Velho 561, Cosme Velho; adult/child R\$8/4; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, noon-6pm Sat & Sun) is extensive: over 8000 pieces, executed by artists from 130 countries, dating from the 15th century to the present. Visitors receive a 50% discount by showing a ticket stub from the Corcovado cog train, which is a block away.

Catete & Glória

Like Flamengo, these twin districts flourished in the mid-19th century, when their location at the outskirts of the city made them desirable places to live. The area's star attraction is the Palácio do Catete, the republic's seat of power before the capital was transferred to Brasília.

IGREJA DE NS DA GLÓRIA DO OUTEIRO

The tiny **Igreja de NS da Glória do Outeiro** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2225 2869; www.outeirodagloria.org.br in Portuguese; Praça de NS da Glória 135; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat & Sun) commands lovely views over Parque do Flamengo and the bay. Considered one of the finest examples of religious colonial architecture in Brazil, the church dates from

RIO'S FAVELAS: BEYOND THE BANG BANG

Residents of Rio de Janeiro's *favelas* (shantytowns) face enormous obstacles. Many families live in communities lacking basic essentials (sewers, medical clinics, roads). Children attend some of the city's worst schools (many indeed drop out). The long bus commute to work can often take hours on traffic-snarled roads for a salary that may not even meet living expenses. There's also the social stigma of living in the slums, some of which are run by local drug lords.

Yet it isn't all gloom for Rio's estimated one million *favela* residents. In the last two decades, locally managed organizations have begun appearing in *favelas* across the city. While small in scale, these non-profit organizations offer residents the chance to learn new skills, gain a sense of pride, and give something often in short supply: hope.

For many poor *favela* children, the Grupo Cultural Afro Reggae (GCAR) is a lifeline. In 1997, in the Vigário Geral *favela*, GCAR opened a cultural centre offering workshops in music, theater, dance, hip-hop and capoeira. The center provides kids with a chance to get off the street, tap into their Afro-Brazilian heritage and gain self-esteem in setting and fulfilling goals. Owing to the center's wide popularity, the ideas have spread. GCAR and its *favela* affiliates now offer more than 60 different programs for poor residents around Rio.

Rocinha, Brazil's largest *favela*, creates similar opportunities for local residents at its Casa da Cultura. Founded in 2003 by Gilberto Gil, Minister of Culture, singer and neighbor, the center draws on the *favela*'s rich artistic tradition, and offers classes in music, theater and painting. The *favela* next door, Vidigal, perched on a hillside overlooking Ipanema Beach, is the base of the group 'Nos do Morro' (We of the Favela). This theater group won fame after some of its young actors appeared in the award-winning film *Cidade de Deus* (*City of God*). Ten of its members performed in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* for the Royal Shakespeare Company in August 2006.

As many have discovered, the *favela* has a deep well of talent, but few opportunities. Opportunity is exactly what sociologist Maria Teresa Leal had in mind when she founded a sewing collective in Rocinha in the 1980s. The idea began during Leal's repeat trips to the *favela* when she encountered many talented seamstresses who had no chance to earn money for their skills. So began **Coopa Roca** (www.coopa-roca.org.br), a small group of women, each working from home to produce quilts, pillows and craft items made of recycled fabrics and other materials. Today the co-op employs some 150 women, and has even caught the eye of the fashion world, with commissions from Brazilian designers Osklen and Carlos Miele, as well as British designer Paul Smith.

For their part, *favelas* have made numerous contributions to the city. Rio's biggest party, Carnaval, was born in the *favelas*, and they continue to be pivotal to the fest. That *favelas* throw the best parties has long been known to many Cariocas. Today, Baile Funk is the biggest party craze to lure both rich and poor to the gritty neighborhoods on the hillsides. There, DJs spin a blend of Rio's bass-heavy funk music to packed dance floors.

Travellers interested in seeing beneath the stereotypes can visit a *favela* on a tour (p163), volunteer (p713) or even overnight in a *favela* (Pousada Favelinha, p169).

1739 and became the favorite of the royal family upon their arrival in 1808. Attached to the church is a small religious art **museum** (R\$1; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Fri, 9am-noon Sat & Sun).

MUSEU DA REPÚBLICA

Located in the Palácio do Catete, the **Museu da República** (Map pp142-3; ☎ 3235 2650; www.museudarrepública.org.br in Portuguese; Rua do Catete 153, Catete; admission R\$6, free on Wed & Sun; ☎ noon-5pm Tue, Thu & Fri, 2-5pm Wed, 2-6pm Sat & Sun) has a good collection of art and artifacts from the Republican period, and also houses an outdoor café, cinema and bookstore. Built between 1858 and

1866 and easily distinguished by the bronze condors on the eaves, the palace was home to the president of Brazil from 1896 until 1954, when President Getúlio Vargas killed himself. The bedroom in which the suicide occurred is eerily preserved on the 3rd floor.

Behind the Palácio lies the **Parque do Catete**, a small, nicely landscaped park complete with a pond and the occasional swan.

MUSEU DE FOLCLÓRICO EDSON CARNEIRO

Next door to the Palácio do Catete, the **Museu de Folclórico Edson Carneiro** (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2205 0090; Rua do Catete 181, Catete; free admission; ☎ 11am-6pm

Tue-Fri, 3-6pm Sat & Sun) provides an excellent introduction to Brazilian folk art. Its collection includes Candomblé costumes, ceramic figurines and religious costumes used in festivals, though our favorite exhibits are the delightful, mechanized scenes (the circus, bull riding, samba show, rubber tree workers).

CENTRO CULTURAL TELEMAR

One of Rio's intriguing new additions, **Centro Cultural Telemar** (Map pp142-3; ☎ 3131 6060; www.centroculturaltelemar.com.br in Portuguese; Rua 2 de Dezembro 63; admission free; 🕒 11am-8pm Tue-Sun) is a six-story ultra-modern exhibition space featuring multimedia installations focusing on architecture, urban design and video art. The top-floor auditorium of this cultural center has a regular line-up of film screenings and

concerts. While the first floor functions as a library where visitors can peruse art books and design mags; a listening station features eclectic music.

Centro

Rio's bustling commercial district, Centro is a blend of high-rise office buildings with remnants of its grand past still present in looming baroque churches, wide plazas and cobblestone streets.

Many pedestrian-only areas crisscross Centro. The most famous of these is known as **Saara**, a giant street bazaar crammed with discount stores. In the last century, Saara attracted an influx of immigrants from the Middle East, and still has a few authentic Lebanese restaurants.

BOHEMIAN RIO

The Zona Sul may have lovely beaches, but the city's soul has long since migrated inland. Today, the neighborhood of Lapa and its hilltop sister Santa Teresa form the backdrop to an explosive renaissance.

On weekend nights, Av Mem de Sá is a jumble of dance halls and restaurants, with samba and *chorinho* (an informal, instrumental music genre) seeming to spill from every doorway. Meanwhile in Santa Teresa, old haunts like **Bar do Mineiro** (p176) continue to be the meeting ground for a new wave of artists and intellectuals as the old tram rattles through the streets.

The area is known for its colorful characters, although the latest crop of eccentrics is hardly the first. Lapa's grand days of bohemia came in the 1920s and '30s, when a jumble of artists, writers and intellectuals mingled among the rough underworld of dance halls, cabarets and brothels. It was the era of colorful *malandros* (con artists) and samba, which was the music of the city. Films like *Madam Satã*, in which Lapa plays a starring role, recall the era of intrigue on the streets, with hush men and corrupt cops, villains and prostitutes wandering dark street corners as samba ballads spilled out of dimly lit clubs.

Yet the place lost its soul in the 1940s, when then president Getúlio Vargas shuttered the cabarets and dance halls and the energy moved elsewhere. Hard times ensued, and escalated as Rio lost its federal prominence (and much cash) to Brasília in the 1960s. Lapa soon became a no-go area of crime and decay, and samba went underground. Although *sambistas* never forget about Lapa, the city forgot about samba – and the appetite for the old-fashioned sound waned as youth flocked to the new bossa nova bars in the beachside neighborhoods of Ipanema and Leblon. Later, rock and disco replaced bossa.

Then in the last decade, Lapa has emerged, phoenix-like, from the ashes. Its rebirth has much to do with samba's renewed popularity. The area's first samba club, **Carioca da Gema** (p179), opened in 2000, and Cariocas slowly started coming into the neighborhood – although they were wary of returning at first. Today there are dozens of music venues in Lapa, and the city seems to have an insatiable appetite for samba.

On a Thursday night, the democratic mix in the neighborhood is startling: white-clad sambistas slinging *cavaquinhos* (small, four-string guitars), alongside young Zona Sul couples and tourists from across the globe, watched over by a new wave of *malandros* (picaresque con artists) and oldtimers, who've seen it all even though they haven't left the neighborhood. Cariocas once again gather in old-fashioned clubs with grand staircases and soaring ceilings – making the glass and vinyl bars of the Zona Sul seem downright soulless. As one *sambista* recently said, 'Lapa is eternal. It's like a phoenix. It decays, dies, then rises again.'

CENTRO CULTURAL DO BANCO DO BRASIL Housed in a beautifully restored building dating from 1906, the **Centro Cultural do Banco do Brasil** (CCBB; Map pp144-5; ☎ 3808 2020; www.cultura-e.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Primeiro de Março 66; admission free; 🕒 noon-8pm Tue-Sun) is now one of Brazil's best cultural centers, with a cinema, two theaters and some of the city's best (and free) exhibitions. There's always something going on at CCBB – visit its website for listings.

CENTRO DE ARTE HÉLIO OITICICA

This avant-garde **museum** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 1012; Rua Luis de Camões 68; admission free; 🕒 11am-7pm Tue-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun) is set in a 19th-century neoclassical building that originally housed the Conservatory of Music and Dramatic Arts. Today, the center displays permanent works by the artist, theoretician and poet Hélio Oiticica, as well as bold contemporary art exhibitions, well-tuned to Oiticica's progressive aesthetics.

ESPAÇO CULTURAL DA MARINHA

On the waterfront, the **Espaço Cultural da Marinha** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2104 6992; Av Alfred Agache s/n; admission free; 🕒 noon-5pm Tue-Sun) is a sailor's delight. Moored along the dock are the *Riachuelo* submarine and the *Bauru* (a small WWII destroyer), which have been turned into floating museums. You'll also find a 19th-century vessel used by Dom João VI, countless ship models, and maps and navigational instruments charting the history of imperial and Brazilian navigation. The boat tour to Ilha Fiscal (p156) leaves from here.

IGREJA SÃO FRANCISCO DA PENITÊNCIA & CONVENTO SANTO ANTÔNIO

Overlooking the Largo da Carioca is the baroque **Igreja São Francisco da Penitência & Convento Santo Antônio** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2262 0197; Largo da Carioca 5, Centro; 🕒 9am-noon & 1-4pm Tue-Fri), dating from 1726. Recently restored to its former glory, the church's sacristy has blue Portuguese tiles and an elaborately carved altar made out of jacaranda wood. It also has a roof panel by José Oliveira Rosa depicting St Francis receiving the stigmata. The church's statue of Santo Antônio is an object of great devotion to many Cariocas in search of a husband or wife.

IGREJA DE NS DE CANDELÁRIA

The construction of the original church to NS de Candelária (dating from the late 16th

century), on the present site, was credited to a ship's captain who had almost been shipwrecked at sea. Upon his safe return he vowed to build a church to her. A later design led to its present-day grandeur, which rated **Igreja de NS de Candelária** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2233 2324; Praça Pio X, Centro; 🕒 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat & Sun) among the largest and wealthiest churches of imperial Brazil. The interior is a spectacular combination of baroque and Renaissance styles. The ceiling above the nave features six large panels that depict the romanticized version of the sea captain's journey and the subsequent origin of the church. The cupola, fabricated entirely from limestone shipped from Lisbon, is one of its most striking features.

MOSTEIRO DE SÃO BENTO

Another fine colonial gem, the **Mosteiro de São Bento** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2291 7122; Rua Dom Gerardo 68, Centro; 🕒 8-11am & 2:30-6pm) was built between 1617 and 1641 on Morro de São Bento, one of the four hills that once marked colonial Rio. The simple facade hides a baroque interior richly decorated in gold. Among its historic treasures are wood carvings designed by Frei Domingos da Conceição and paintings by José Oliveira Rosa. On Sunday, the High Mass at 10am includes a choir of Benedictine monks singing Gregorian chants. To reach the monastery from Rua Dom Gerardo, go to number 40 and take the elevator to the 5th floor.

MUSEU HISTÓRICO NACIONAL

Housed in the colonial arsenal, which dates from 1764, the impressive **Museu Histórico Nacional** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2550 9224; www.museu.historiconacional.com.br; off Av General Justo; adult/child R\$6/3, free Sun; 🕒 10am-5:30pm Tue-Fri, 2-6pm Sat & Sun) contains over 250,000 historic relics relating to the history of Brazil from its founding to its early days as a republic. The museum is located near Praça Marechal Âncora and features many well-designed displays, from gilded imperial coaches and the throne of Dom Pedro II to massive oil paintings depicting the horrific combat in the war with Paraguay. There's some attention paid to Brazil's indigenous population and to curious relics like the writing quill that Princess Isabel used to sign the document abolishing slavery in Brazil and a full-sized model of a colonial pharmacy.

MUSEU NACIONAL DE BELAS ARTES

Rio's **Museu Nacional de Belas Artes** (Map pp144-5; Av Rio Branco 199, Centro; admission US\$1.50; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, 2-6pm Sat & Sun) houses more than 800 original paintings and sculptures ranging from the 17th to the 20th centuries. One of its most important galleries is the Galeria de Arte Brasileira, with 20th-century classics such as Cândido Portinari's *Café*. Other galleries display Brazilian folk art, African art and furniture, as well as contemporary exhibits. Guided tours are available in English (call ahead).

PAÇO IMPERIAL

Built in 1743, the **Paço Imperial** (Imperial Palace; Map pp144-5; ☎ 2533 4407; cnr Praça XV de Novembro & Rua Primeiro de Março, Centro; free admission; ☎ noon-6:30pm Tue-Sun) today hosts an excellent range of changing exhibitions (recent shows included the mobiles of Alexander Calder and a history of Brazilian music, complete with dozens of listening stations). Originally built as a governor's residence, it later served as the home to Dom João and his family when the Portuguese royals fled Napoleon and transferred the throne to the colony. In 1888 Princesa Isabel proclaimed the Freedom from Slavery Act from the palace's steps. In addition to exhibitions, there are restaurants, a music store and a cinema on the 1st floor.

Adjoining the Paço is the **Praça XV de Novembro**, the broad plaza where Brazil's two emperors (Pedro I and Pedro II) were crowned. It was later the site of the deposition of Emperor Pedro II in 1889.

PRAÇA FLORIANO

The heart of modern Rio, **Praça Floriano** (Map pp144-5; Av Rio Branco, Centro) comes to life at lunchtime and after work when the outdoor cafés are filled with beer drinkers, samba musicians and political debate. The square is also Rio's political marketplace. There's daily speech-making, literature sales and street theater. Most city marches and rallies culminate here on the steps of the old Câmara Municipal (Town Hall), in the northwest corner of the plaza.

REAL GABINETE PORTUGUÊS DE LEITURA

Built in the Manuelin Portuguese style in 1837, the gorgeous **Real Gabinete Português de Leitura** (Portuguese Reading Room; Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 3138; Rua Luís de Camões 30; admission free; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) houses over 350,000 works, many dat-

ing from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. It also has a small collection of paintings, sculptures and ancient coins.

TEATRO MUNICIPAL

Built in 1905 in the style of the Paris Opera, the magnificent **Teatro Municipal** (Municipal Theater; Map pp144-5; ☎ 2299 1711; Rua Manuel de Carvalho; guided tour R\$6; ☎ 1-4pm Mon-Fri) is the home of Rio's opera, orchestra and ballet. It's well worth booking a tour (call ☎ 2299 1667), if you don't attend a performance there.

TRAVESSA DO COMÉRCIO

Beautiful two-story colonial townhouses line the narrow cobblestone street of **Travessa do Comércio** (Map pp144-5; Near Praça XV de Novembro), leading off of Praça XV de Novembro. The archway known as Arco de Teles leading into the area was once a part of an old viaduct running between two buildings. Today, the street contains half a dozen restaurants and drinking spots that open onto the streets. It's a favorite spot for Cariocas after work.

Santa Teresa

Set on a hill overlooking the city, the cobbled streets and aging mansions of Santa Teresa are a vision of days long past. Named after the Carmelite convent founded here in 1750, Santa Teresa was the uppermost residential neighborhood in the 19th century, when Rio's upper class lived here and rode the *bonde* (tram) to work in Centro. During the 1960s and 1970s many artists and bohemians moved into Santa Teresa's mansions, initiating a revitalization process that still continues. Throughout the year, impromptu festivals and street parties fill the air, making it one of Rio's most exciting neighborhoods.

Although there is a police presence in the area, the *favelas* down the hillsides still make this a high-crime area. Don't take any valuables when walking around; it's best to stick close to Largo do Guimarães and the *bonde* line.

BONDE

The **bonde** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2240 5709; station at Rua Lélio Gama 65, Centro; ticket R\$0.60; ☎ departures every 30min, 7am-10pm) that travels up to Santa Teresa from Centro is the last of the historic streetcars that once crisscrossed the city. Its clatter through the cobbled streets has made it the icon for bohemian Santa Teresa. The tram

travels over the Arcos do Lapa and up Rua Joaquim Murtinho before reaching Largo do Guimarães. From there, one line (Paula Matos) takes a northwestern route, terminating at Largo das Neves. Unfortunately, security is an issue, and travelers have been mugged walking to and from this plaza. The safest time to go is on a weekend night, when the Largo is at its liveliest – but take a taxi or a tram; don't walk. The longer route (Dois Irmãos) continues from Largo do Guimarães uphill and southward before terminating near the water reservoir at Dois Irmãos.

Tram tours depart every Saturday highlighting historic points in the neighborhood (see p164 for details).

MUSEU CHÁCARA DO CÉU

The former mansion of art patron and industrialist Raymundo Ottoni de Castro Maya is now the **Museu Chácara do Céu** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2507 1932; Rua Murtinho Nobre 93, Santa Teresa; admission R\$6; ☎ noon-5pm Wed-Mon), with a small collection of modern art. In addition to works by Portinari, Di Cavalcanti, and a good assortment of European and Asian works, the museum displays furniture and Brazilian maps dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. Beautiful gardens surround the museum, with fine views of Centro and Baía de Guanabara. Sadly, four of the museum's most valuable paintings were stolen during an armed robbery in 2006.

PARQUE DAS RUINAS

Connected to the Chácara do Céu by a walkway, the **Parque das Ruínas** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 1039; Rua Murtinho Nobre 169, Santa Teresa; admission free; ☎ 10am-8pm Tue-Sun) contains the ruins of the mansion that belong to Brazilian heiress Laurinda Santos Lobo. Her house was a meeting point for Rio's artists and intellectuals for many years until her death in 1946. Today the park often stages open-air concerts and performances. Don't miss the view from the top floor.

Lapa

Formerly a residential neighborhood of the wealthy, Lapa had its best days before the 20th century, and its mansions are now sadly neglected. Today Lapa recalls decades of dereliction in the minds of some Cariocas, while others cite the cultural renaissance happening here. Undoubtedly, Lapa is the center of a vibrant bohemian scene in Rio, with dozens

of music clubs, bars and old-fashioned restaurants scattered along its avenues.

On weekend nights, revelers pack the neighborhood's samba clubs, its streets and the wide plaza in front of the Arcos do Lapa, the neighborhood's prominent landmark. Narrow tracks course over the 64m-high structure, carrying the famous *bonde* to and from Santa Teresa.

CATEDRAL METROPOLITANA

The enormous cone-shaped **Catedral Metropolitana** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2240 2669; Av República do Chile 245, Lapa; admission free; ☎ 7am-5:30pm) was inaugurated in 1976 after 12 years of construction. Among its sculptures, murals and other works of art are four breathtaking stained-glass windows, which stretch 60m to the ceiling.

The small **Museu de Arte Sacra** (Museum of Sacred Art; admission R\$2) is in the basement. It contains historical items such as the throne of Dom Pedro II, the baptismal basins used at the christenings of royal princes and the golden roses Princess Isabel received from Pope Leo XIII after signing the law abolishing slavery in Brazil.

ESCADARIA SELARÓN

An ever-expanding installation, the **Escadaria Selarón** (Selarón Staircase; Map pp144-5; btwn Rua Joaquim Silva, Lapa & Rua Pinto Martins, Santa Teresa), leading up from Rua Joaquim Silva, became a work of art when Chilean-born artist Jorge Selarón decided to cover the steps with colorful mosaics. A dedication to the Brazilian people, the 215 steps are a vivid riot of color.

FUNDAÇÃO PROGRESSO

Once a foundry for safes and ovens, the **Fundação Progresso** (☎ 2220 5070; Rua dos Arcos 24, Lapa; admission free; concerts R\$10-50; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) today hosts avant-garde exhibitions, performances and popular samba parties during the summer.

Greater Rio

To the west of Centro lie some of Rio's big-name attractions, including the Sambódromo, the Maracanã Football Stadium and the Feira Nordestina, one of Brazil's wildest markets. You'll also find the Quinta da Boa Vista, a large park containing the Museu Nacional and the Jardim Zoológico (zoo). These latter

sites lie in São Cristóvão, which in the 19th century was home to the nobility, including the monarchs themselves. It has since become one of the most populous suburbs in Rio.

To the east of Centro lies Rio's scenic bay. Unfortunately, it's too polluted for swimming, but it makes a fine setting for sailing out to Ilha de Paquetá or Niterói. For cruises on the bay, see p163.

CIDADE NOVA

Sambódromo

The epicenter of Rio's Carnaval, the **Sambódromo** (Map pp146-7; Rua do Catumbi) was designed by Oscar Niemeyer and completed in 1984. The small **Museu do Carnaval** (Map pp146-7; free admission; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun) has information on the history of Rio's samba schools, and you can try on costumes, but aside from that, there isn't much to see when the parades aren't happening.

SÃO CRISTÓVÃO

Feira Nordestina

The enormous **Feira Nordestina** (Map pp146-7; ☎ 3860 9976; www.feiradesaocristovao.com.br in Portuguese; Campo de São Cristóvão, São Cristóvão; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Thu & 10am Fri-10pm Sun) is not to be missed. The fair (32,000 sq meters with 658 stalls) showcases the culture from the Northeast, with *barracas* (stalls) selling Bahian dishes as well as beer and *cachaça* (sugarcane spirit), which flows in great abundance. Bands perform *forró* (popular music of the Northeast), samba and Música Popular Brasileira (MPB). On Friday, the fair turns into a huge party which runs nonstop until Sunday.

Maracanã Football Stadium

Brazil's temple of soccer, **Maracanã Football Stadium** (Map pp146-7; ☎ 2299 2941; Rua Professor Eurico Rabelo, São Cristóvão; admission R\$12-30) easily accommodates more than 100,000 people. On certain occasions, such as the World Cup match of 1950 or Pelé's last game, it has squeezed in close to 200,000 crazed fans – although it's now been modified to hold fewer.

For a quasi-psychedelic experience, go to a *futebol* (football) match – preferably a championship game or one between local rivals Flamengo, Vasco da Gama, Fluminense or Botafogo. See p182 for details.

A **sports museum** (admission R\$14; ☎ 9am-5pm daily except game days) inside the stadium displays photographs, posters, and the uniforms of Brazilian sporting greats, including Pelé's

famous number 10 shirt. There's a recording of cheering fans overhead, giving you an idea of the energy that runs through this place. There's also a store that sells football shirts. Enter through gate number 16 on Rua Professor Eurico Rabelo.

Quinta da Boa Vista

The residence of the imperial family until the Republic was proclaimed, today **Quinta da Boa Vista** (Map pp146-7; ☎ 2234 1609; Rua Paula e Silva, São Cristóvão; ☎ 7am-6pm) is a large and busy park with gardens and lakes. On weekends it's crowded with soccer games and families from the Zona Norte. The former imperial mansion houses the **Museu Nacional** (Map pp146-7; ☎ 2568 8262; admission R\$3; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Sun) and **Museu da Fauna**. In addition to Etruscan ceramics, Egyptian mummies and stuffed prehistoric animals, the Museu Nacional contains a small Brazilian section with relics from the country's early indigenous people. For a chance to see a wide assortment of plants and flowers – both native and imported species – visit the Museu da Fauna.

The **Jardim Zoológico** (Map pp146-7; ☎ 2569 2024; admission R\$5; ☎ 9am-4:30pm Tue-Sun), Rio's zoo, is 200m away from Boa Vista. It boasts a medium-sized collection of Brazilian mammals and endangered species. Highlights include the tropical-bird aviary (the gardens are a good place for birdwatchers) and the Nocturnal House, offering visitors a close-up view of sloths, bats and other creatures of the night.

BAÍA DE GUANABARA

Ilha Fiscal

The lime-green, neo-Gothic palace of **Ilha Fiscal** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2233 9165; admission R\$8; ☎ 1pm, 2:30pm & 4pm Thu-Sun except on the 2nd weekend of each month), sitting in the Baía de Guanabara, looks like something out of a fairy tale. It was designed by engineer Adolfo del Vecchio and was the location of the last Imperial Ball on November 9, 1889. Today it's open for guided tours, which leave from the Espaço Cultural da Marinha (p153), north of Praça XV de Novembro.

Ilha de Paquetá

The **Ilha de Paquetá** (Map p137), in the Baía de Guanabara, was once a popular tourist spot and remains a pleasant escape from the city's bustle. There are no cars on the island. Transport is by foot, bicycle (with hundreds for

rent) or horsedrawn carts. There's a certain decadent charm to the colonial buildings, unassuming beaches and businesses catering to local tourism. The place gets crowded on weekends.

Go to Paquetá for the boat ride, the pretty scenery across the bay and to see Cariocas at play – especially during the Festa de São Roque, which is celebrated over five days in August.

Boats leave from near the Praça XV de Novembro in Centro. The regular **ferry** (☎ 4004 3113; weekday/weekend return R\$7.20/12) takes 70 minutes and offers seven to nine trips daily from 7.10am to 11pm. At the time of research, the **hydrofoil** (☎ 2533 4343; return R\$16) took 30 minutes and was operating infrequently.

NITERÓI

The city of Niterói's principal attraction is the famous Museu do Arte Contemporânea. The cruise across the bay, however, is perhaps just as valid a reason for leaving Rio. The ferry costs about R\$4.60 return and leaves from Praça XV de Novembro in Centro; it's usually full of commuters. The faster and more comfortable alternative is the jumbo catamaran, which runs every 15 minutes from 7am to 4pm and costs R\$11 return. Once you reach the dock, there isn't much to see in the immediate area. It's a busy commercial area, full of pedestrians and crisscrossing intersections. From here catch a bus to the MAC or to one of the beaches.

Museu do Arte Contemporânea

Designed by Brazil's most famous architect, Oscar Niemeyer, the **Museu do Arte Contemporânea** (MAC; Map p137; ☎ 2620 2400; www.macniteroi.com.br in Portuguese; Mirante da Boa Viagem s/n, Niterói; admission R\$5; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun) is a curvilinear building with breathtaking views, but the expositions inside aren't always very notable. To get here from the Niterói ferry terminal, turn right as you leave and walk about 50m across to the bus stop in the middle of the road; a 47B minibus will drop you at the museum door.

BEACHES EAST OF NITERÓI

A number of beaches lie just east of Niterói. The ones closest to town are too polluted for swimming, but as you continue out, you'll reach some pristine beaches – Piratininga, Cambóinhas, Itaipu and finally Itacoatiara, the most fabulous of the bunch. Framed by

two looming hills on either side and backed by vegetation, the white sands of Itacoatiara seem a world removed from the urban beaches of Rio. *Barracas* sell scrumptious plates of fish, and there are also food stands overlooking the beach (try *Sandwiches Onda* for a *natural* – a sandwich of tuna, chicken or cottage cheese, with additional ingredients such as carrots, raisins or olives). The surf is strong here – as evidenced by the abundance of surfers – so swim with caution. To get here, you can take bus 38 from the ferry terminal (R\$4, 50 minutes) or any bus labeled 'Itacoatiara.' If you're traveling in a group you can negotiate a return fare with a taxi driver.

BARRA DA TIJUCA & WEST OF RIO

Ten kilometers west of Leblon, Barra da Tijuca (Barra) is the Miami of Rio, with malls and shopping centers set against the tropical landscape. At 12km long, the lovely beach here is the city's longest. Beyond this, the region gets less and less urban. Some of Rio's most beautiful beaches lie out this way (see the boxed text on p158 for details). Further west begins Brazil's gorgeous coastal road that travels through the region known as the Costa Verde.

Praia da Barra da Tijuca

The best thing about Barra is the beach, **Praia da Barra da Tijuca** (Map p137). It's a long, scenic spot with blue sea lapping at the shore; the first few kilometers are filled with bars and seafood restaurants.

The young and beautiful hang out in front of *barraca* number 1 – also known as the *Baraca do Pepe*, after the famous Carioca hang gliding champion who died during a competition in Japan in 1991.

The further out you go the more deserted it gets, and the stalls turn into trailers. It's calm on weekdays and crazy on hot summer weekends.

Sítio Burle Marx

The enormous 350,000-sq-meter estate, **Sítio Burle Marx** (Map p137; ☎ 2410 1412; burlemarx@alternex.com.br; Estrada da Barra de Guaratiba 2019, Guaratiba; admission R\$5; ☎ 7am-4pm, by advance appointment only) was once the magnificent home of Brazil's most famous landscape architect, Roberto Burle Marx. The beautifully lush gardens of the estate, 22km west of the city, easily warrant a visit. Strolling the verdantly landscaped area allows visitors the chance to see and smell

BEACHES WEST OF RIO

Although Copacabana and Ipanema are Rio's most famous stretches of sand, there are many stunning beaches in the area, some in spectacular natural settings.

Pepino/São Conrado

The first major beach you'll reach heading west of Leblon is **Praia do Pepino** (Map p137) in São Conrado. Pepino is a beautiful beach, and is less crowded than Ipanema. It's also where hang gliders like to lounge when they're not soaring overhead.

Recreio dos Bandeirantes

Although it gets crowded on weekends, **Recreio dos Bandeirantes** is almost deserted during the week. The large rock acts as a natural breakwater, creating a calm bay. The 2km-long stretch of sand is popular with families.

Prainha

The secluded 700m-long **Prainha** lies just 6km past Recreio. It's one of the best surfing beaches in Rio, so it's always full of surfers. Waves come highly recommended here.

Grumari

The most isolated and unspoiled beach close to the city, **Grumari** is quiet during the week and packed on weekends with Cariocas looking to get away from city beaches. It is a gorgeous setting, surrounded by mountains and lush vegetation.

Guaratiba

From Grumari, a narrow road climbs over a jungle-covered hillside toward **Guaratiba**. West of here is a good view of the **Restinga de Marambaia** (the vegetation-rich strip between the beach and the mainland), closed off to the public by a naval base. Cariocas enjoy eating lunch at several of the seafood restaurants in the area.

thousands of exotic plant species from both Brazil and abroad. A lovely 17th-century Benedictine chapel, along with Burle Marx's original farmhouse and studio, completes the idyllic setting.

ACTIVITIES

Given the mountains, beaches and forests in their backyard, it's not surprising that Cariocas are an active bunch. The coastline brings an array of options: jogging, hiking, walking, cycling, and surfing. The mountains offer their own allure: you can hang glide off them or rock climb up them. Great hiking trails through Atlantic rain forest lie just outside the city.

Cycling

There are over 74km of bike paths around Rio, including those around Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas, along Barra da Tijuca and the oceanfront from Leblon to Leme. This last path also connects to Praia de Botafogo and Parque do Flamengo, running all the way to Centro. In the Tijuca forest, a 6km bikeway runs from a waterfall (Cascatinha) to a mu-

seum (Açude). On Sundays the beach road from Leblon to Leme closes to traffic, as does the road through Parque do Flamengo. Bilingual bike tours are available through **Rio by Bike** (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 7269; Hostel Ipanema, House 14, Rua Barão da Torre 175, Ipanema).

You can rent bikes from a stand along the west side of Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas for R\$10 per hour. A few other places to rent bikes: **Cidovia** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2275 5299; Av Prado Junior 330 & Rua Francisco Otaviano 55, Copacabana; per hr/day R\$8/50; 📞 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat) Rents bikes from posto 6 on Sundays (from 9am to 2pm).

Special Bike (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2521 2686; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 135B, Ipanema; per hr/day R\$15/45; 📞 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 3pm Sat)

Zaga Bike (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2287 7616; Rua Miguel Lemos 51F, Copacabana; per hr/day R\$10/50; 📞 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat) Good mountain bikes.

Diving

Dive Point (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2239 5105; www.divepoint.com.br in Portuguese; Shop 5, Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1174, Leblon) offers diving courses and tours around Rio's main beaches and Cagarras Island (in front

of Ipanema), as well as trips to Angra dos Reis and Búzios.

Calypso (☎ 9939 5997, 8144 6574; www.calypsobrasil.com.br in Portuguese) provides diving courses (up to Dive Master) in waters near Rio. You can pick up information about courses at the dive shop **AS Divers** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 8852; mezzanine, Rua da Alfândega 97, Centro).

Fishing

Universidade da Pesca (Map pp146-7; ☎ 3971 7211; www.upesca.com.br in Portuguese; Rua do Bispo 94/1207, Rio Comprido) features a wide range of fishing tours – from day trips in Baía de Guanabara and Cagarras Island to weeklong adventures in the Amazon.

Hang gliding

If you weigh less than 100kg (about 220lb) and can spare R\$250, you can do the fantastic hang glide off 510m-high Pedra Bonita – one of the giant granite slabs that tower above Rio – onto Praia do Pepino in São Conrado. No experience is necessary; tandem riders are secured in a kind of pouch attached to the kite.

Flights typically last from 15 to 25 minutes and naturally depend on weather and wind conditions. You can usually fly on all but three to four days per month, and conditions during winter are even better. If you fly early in the day, you have more flexibility to accommodate weather delays. Prices include pick-up and drop-off from your hotel. Travel agents also book tandem flights, but tack on their own fee. To cut out the middlemen, call direct.

Just Fly (☎ 2268 0565; www.justfly.com.br; Hostel Ipanema, House 14, Rua Barão da Torre 175, Ipanema) Paulo Celani is a highly experienced tandem flyer with over 6000 flights to his credit.

SuperFly (☎ 3322 2286; www.riosuperfly.com.br in Portuguese; House 2, Estrada das Canoas 1476; São Conrado) Ruy Marra, founder of SuperFly, has more than 25 years of experience flying and is an excellent tandem glider pilot.

Tandem Fly (☎ 2422 6371, 3322 5817, 2493 4324; www.riotandemfly.com.br) Three experienced pilots run this tandem flight outfit. They also give lessons for those wanting to fly solo.

Hiking & Climbing

Aside from access to nearby national parks like Parque Nacional da Serra dos Órgãos (p209) and Parque Nacional de Itatiaia (p203),

Rio has many trails through the rain forest of Floresta da Tijuca. Visitors can also take part in hikes around Corcovado, Morro da Urca, Parque Lage and other areas. It's advisable to go with a guide for a number of reasons – to avoid getting lost and robbed are top of the list. Group outings can also be a good way to meet Cariocas.

Rio is also the center of rock climbing in Brazil, with around 350 documented climbs within an hour's drive. Rio has several well-organized climbing clubs, which have regular weekly meetings to discuss upcoming outings.

Centro Excursionista Brasileira (CEB; Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 9844; www.ceb.org.br in Portuguese; 8th fl, Av Almirante Barroso 2, Centro; 📞 meeting 7pm Thu, office 2-6pm Mon-Fri) CEB sponsors day hikes and weekend treks (with camping).

Clube Excursionista Carioca (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2255 1348; www.carioca.org.br in Portuguese; Rua Hilário de Gouveia 206/71, Copacabana; 📞 meeting 8:30pm Thu) typically arranges hikes and technical climbs, as well as rappelling and rafting trips.

Rio Hiking (☎ 2552 9204, 9721 0594; www.riohiking.com.br) Founded by a mother-and-son team of outdoor enthusiasts, Rio Hiking offers a wide variety of hikes. Popular treks go up Pico da Tijuca (the highest point in the national park), Pedra da Gávea (eight hours, R\$142.50), Pão de Açúcar (five hours, R\$114) and Corcovado. Cycling, rafting, kayaking and rappelling trips can also be arranged.

Tangara Ecological Hikes (☎ 2252 8202, 9656 1460; www.tangarapasseios.com.br) Tangara arranges day hikes and outings on weekends on Tijuca trails, up Corcovado and Pedra Bonita, and to other nearby sites. Hikes are affordable (around R\$20 to R\$25 per person), although you'll have to arrange your own transport to the sites.

Trilharte Ecoturismo (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2225 2426; www.trilharte.com.br in Portuguese; Suite 1, Rua Almirante Tamandaré 77, Flamengo) This organization offers hiking trips that attract those with a passion for nature photography; hikes cost around R\$35 (hike up Morro de Urca) and are held on Saturdays.

Surfing

When the surf is good, it gets crowded. Praia do Arpoador, between Copacabana and Ipanema, draws large flocks of surfers, though there are much better breaks further out in Barra, Grumari, Joá and Prainha – by far the

PARQUE NACIONAL DA TIJUCA

The Floresta da Tijuca (another name for Parque Nacional da Tijuca) is all that's left of the Atlantic rain forest that once surrounded Rio de Janeiro. In just 15 minutes you can go from the concrete jungle of Copacabana to the 120-sq-km tropical jungle of the **Parque Nacional da Tijuca** (Map p137). A more rapid and dramatic contrast is hard to imagine. The forest is an exuberant green, with beautiful trees, creeks and waterfalls, mountainous terrain and high peaks. It has an excellent, well-marked trail system. Candomblistas (devotees of the Candomblé religion) leave offerings by the roadside, families have picnics and serious hikers climb the 1012m to the summit of **Pico da Tijuca**.

The heart of the forest is the Alto da Boa Vista area, which has many lovely natural and artificial features. Among the highlights of this beautiful park are several waterfalls (**Cascatinha Taunay**, **Cascata Gabriela** and **Cascata Diamantina**), a 19th-century chapel (**Capela Mayrink**) and numerous caves (**Gruta Luís Fernandes**, **Gruta Belmiro** and **Gruta Paulo e Virgínia**). Also in the park is a pleasant picnic spot (**Bom Retiro**) and several restaurants (Restaurante Os Equilos and Restaurante a Floresta, which is near the **Ruínas do Archer**, the ruins of Major Archer's house). A recommended culinary experience is the open-air brunch at the **Museu do Açude** (☎ 2492 2119; Estrada do Açude 764, Floresta da Tijuca), held on the last Sunday of the month.

The park is home to many different bird and animal species, including iguanas and monkeys, which you might encounter on one of the excellent day hikes you can make here. Maps can be obtained at the small artisan **shop** (☎ 7am-9pm), just inside the park entrance.

The entire park closes at sunset. It's best to go by car, but if you can't, catch a number 221, 233 or 234 bus. Alternatively, take the metro to Saens Peña then catch a bus going to Barra da Tijuca and get off at Alto da Boa Vista. The best route by car is to take Rua Jardim Botânico two blocks past the Jardim Botânico (heading east from Gávea). Turn left on Rua Lopes Quintas and then follow the Tijuca or Corcovado signs for two quick left turns until you reach the back of the Jardim Botânico, where you turn right. Then follow the signs for a quick ascent into the forest and past the **Vista Chinesa** (get out for a good view) and the **Mesa do Imperador**, both of which offer some fantastic views of Rio's mountainous seascape. As soon as you seem to come out of the forest, turn right onto the main road and you'll see the stone columns at the entrance of Alto da Boa Vista on your left after a couple of kilometers. You can also drive up to Alto da Boa Vista by heading out to São Conrado and turning right up the hill at the Parque Nacional da Tijuca signs.

Warning: There have been occasional reports of armed robberies within the park. Most Cariocas recommend going on weekends when there are more people around.

best surf spot in Rio. Across the bay, Itacoatiara also has good breaks. For transportation to the beaches, grab your board and hop on the **Surf Bus** (☎ office 2539 7555, bus 8702 2837; www.surfbus.com.br in Portuguese; 1-way R\$3), a bright yellow-orange bus that makes four return trips daily (beginning at 7am) from Largo do Machado (near Flamengo) to Prainha, with stops at beaches along the way.

If you don't have a board, you can hire or buy one in Arpoador at **Galeria River** (Map pp140-1; Rua Francisco Otaviano 67, Arpoador; per day R\$30), a commercial center full of surf shops and boutiques.

You'll find informal surf schools scattered along the beaches of Ipanema, Leblon and Barra da Tijuca. Most charge around R\$20 per hour.

Escolinha de Surf Paulo Dolabella (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2259 2320; in front of Rua Maria Quitéria, Ipanema Beach) Although you'll have to ask around to find him, Paulo gives private lessons.

Escolinha de Surf Barra da Tijuca (☎ 3209 0302; 1st kiosk after Post 5, Av Sernambetiba, Praia da Barra da Tijuca) This surfing school is run by a Brazilian ex-champion and former professional surfer.

Volleyball & Other Beach Sports

Volleyball is Brazil's second most popular sport (after football) and a natural activity for the beach. A local variation of the sport, seen on Rio's beaches, is *futevôlei*. It's a cross between volleyball and football – but no hands allowed.

Usually played on the firm sand at the shoreline, *frescobol* involves two players, each

with a wooden racquet, hitting a small rubber ball back and forth as hard as possible.

Those interested in improving their volleyball game – or just meeting some Cariocas – should pay a visit to Pelé at **Escolinha de Vôlei** (Map pp138-9; ☎ 9702 5794; www.voleinapraia.com.br in Portuguese; near Rua Garcia D'Ávila, on Ipanema Beach). Pelé, who speaks English, has been giving one-hour volleyball lessons for over 10 years. Lessons are in the morning (from about 8am to 11am) and in the afternoon (5pm to 7pm). He charges around R\$50 for the month and you can come as often as you like. Look for his large Brazilian flag on the beach.

Walking & Jogging

Good walking and jogging paths in the Zona Sul include Parque do Flamengo (Map pp144-5), which also has workout stations. Around Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas (Map pp138-9), a 7.5km track provides a path for cyclists and joggers. Along the seaside, from Leme to Barra da Tijuca, there's a bike path and footpath. On Sunday, the road is closed to traffic from 7am to 6pm. The road skirting through Parque do Flamengo is also closed on Sundays.

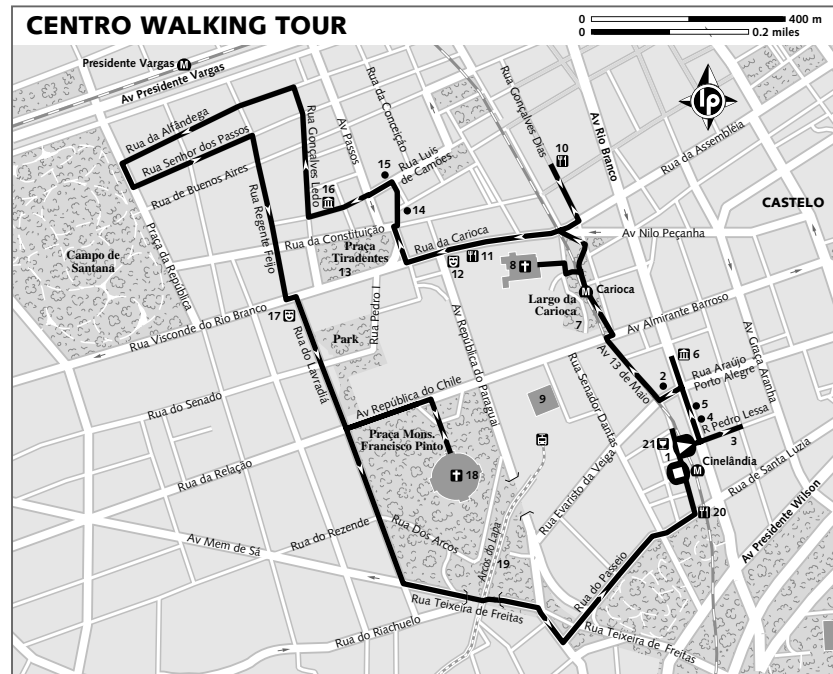
Located between the mountains and the sea at Praia Vermelha in Urca is the Pista Cláudio Coutinho (Map pp142-3). It's closed to bicycles but open to walkers and joggers from 7am until 6pm daily, and is very secure because of the army post nearby.

WALKING TOUR

A blend of historic buildings and young skyscrapers, the center of Rio makes an excellent place to discover the city's charm away from its beaches and mountains. Among the hustle and bustle, you'll find museums, charming bars, theaters and open-air bazaars. This tour is best done during the week, when Centro is at its most vibrant (and safest).

Start at **Praça Floriano (1; p154)**, which is the heart of modern Rio. Praça Floriano comes to life at lunchtime and after work when the outdoor cafés fill with Cariocas. The neoclassical **Teatro Municipal (2; p154)** overlooking the plaza is one of Rio's finest buildings.

On the east side of Av Rio Branco, facing Praça Floriano, is an open-air music market, **Rua Pedro Lessa (3)**, where you can browse the



record and CD stalls. Next to it is the **Centro Cultural Justiça Federal (4)**; ☎ 2510 8846; Av Rio Branco 241; admission free; ☎ 7pm Tue-Sun), which hosts changing contemporary exhibitions. The solid **Biblioteca Nacional (5)**; ☎ 2262 8255; Av Rio Branco 219; admission free; ☎ noon-8pm Mon-Fri) is next door, while north on Av Rio Branco is another historic building, today hosting the **Museu Nacional de Belas Artes (6)**; p154). Take a peek inside to see some of Rio's best-known 19th-century painters.

Now cross Av Rio Branco and walk in front of the Teatro Municipal, then take a left down Av 13 de Maio. Cross Av Almirante Barrosoa and you're in the **Largo da Carioca (7)**, a pedestrian area that gets packed with vendors during the week. Up on the hill is the recently restored **Convento Santo Antônio (8)**; p153). The original church here was started in 1608, making it one of Rio's oldest.

Gazing south from the convent, you'll notice the **Petrobras building (9)**, whose box-like metal chassis seems to cast an ominous shadow over the area. Behind it is the ultra-modern Catedral Metropolitana.

Come back down from the church and take a right on Rua da Carioca and a left on Rua Gonçalves Dias and stop in the **Confeitaria Colombo (10)**; p173) for a serving of caffeine, cake and art nouveau. Head back to Rua da Carioca. Along this street, you'll find an array of old shops, a slice out of 19th-century Rio. **Bar Luiz (11)**; p175), at number 39, makes a fine stop for a bite or a *chope* (draft beer).

At the end of the block you'll pass the **Cinema Iris (12)**, which used to be one of Rio's most elegant theaters, and emerge into the hustle of **Praça Tiradentes (13)**. On opposite sides of the square are the Teatro João Caetano and the Teatro Carlos Gomez, historic buildings that still stage some excellent music, dance and theater performances. Around the corner is the **Centro Cultural Carioca (14)**; p124). Stop in here to see what's on musically for the evening. Just across from the theater is the **Real Gabinete Português de Leitura (15)**; p154), with a lovely collection of books. For a taste of modern art, cross Av Passos and visit the avant-garde **Centro de Arte Hélio Oiticica (16)**; p153).

Afterwards, continue west to Rua Gonçalves Ledo and take a right. When you reach Rua da Alfândega turn left. This will take you into the heart of Saara, a longstanding neighborhood bazaar packed with shops, pedestrians and Lebanese restaurants. Walk, shop and snack as

far as Campo de Santana. Make a U-turn there and proceed back along Rua Senhor dos Passos. Take a right on Rua Regente Feijó. When this street ends take a short left and then a right and head down Rua do Lavradio. This street is famous for its antique shops set in the colorful 19th-century buildings. A number of great nightspots, such as **Rio Scenarium (17)**; p180), feature excellent samba bands playing in restored colonial buildings.

When you reach Av República do Chile take a left and stop in the **Catedral Metropolitana (18)**; p155) for a glimpse of the church's marvelous stained-glass windows. When you leave, head back to Rua do Lavradio for more window shopping. When you reach Av Mem de Sá, take a left and follow the road around the curve as you pass beneath the **Arcos do Lapa (19)**. This is Rio's big samba center at night, with clubs and old-school bars scattered all over the neighborhood. When you reach the Largo da Lapa, a small plaza along which a restaurant and a few samba clubs are scattered, take a left and walk along Rua do Passeio. You'll have great views of the arches from here. In two more blocks you'll be back to where you started. When you reach Praça Floriano, stop in at **Ateliê Odeon (20)**; p175) or **Amarelinho (21)**; p178) for a *chope* or juice, a refreshing cap to the walk.

COURSES

Dance

Given the resurgent popularity of dance hall samba throughout the city, it's not surprising that there are a number of places where you can learn the moves – then practice them – in Lapa.

Casa de Dança Carlinhos de Jesus (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2541 6186; www.carlinhosdejesus.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Álvaro Ramos 11, Botafogo) At this respected dance academy, Carlinhos and his instructors give samba, *forró*, salsa and hip-hop classes in the evenings from about 7pm to 10pm.

Centro Cultural Carioca (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 6468; www.centroculturalcarioca.com.br in Portuguese; Rua do Teatro 37, Centro; 4-week course, meeting twice per week R\$65; ☎ noon-8pm Mon-Sat) An excellent place to take classes. Its large dance hall hosts live samba parties on Friday.

Estudantina Café (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 5062; Praça Tiradentes 79, Centro) A broad mix of skilled and unskilled dancers meets for Tuesday- and Friday-night classes at a cultural center and samba club. Excellent parties are thrown here on weekends. See p179 for details.

Núcleo de Dança (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 1011; 2nd fl, Rua da Carioca 14, Centro) On the northern edge of Lapa; offers classes on *forró*, tango, salsa and samba. Instructor Marcia Pinheiro is flexible – you can usually drop in and join a class. Most are held during the day – around noon – so stop in to see what's on.

Language

Many hostels advertise freelance language teachers who offer private and small-group lessons, which are often more economical than studying through a school.

Instituto Brasil-Estados Unidos (IBEU; Map pp140-1; ☎ 2548 8430; www.ibeu.org.br in Portuguese; 5th fl, Av NS de Copacabana 690, Copacabana; 4-week course, meeting 3 times per week R\$1000) One of the most respected language institutions in the city, IBEU has four levels of classes (beginner to advanced). Classes typically meet for two hours a day, Monday through Thursday for four weeks.

RIO FOR CHILDREN

Brazilians are very family-oriented. Many hotels let children stay free, although the age limit varies. Babysitters are readily available and most restaurants have high chairs.

Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children*, by Cathy Lanigan, gives a lot of good tips and advice on traveling with kids in the tropics.

There's plenty of good spade and sand-bucket fun to be had on Rio's beaches, particularly Leblon's *posto* 12, known as Baixo Bébe for its mini-playground and all the moms and tots around. Other amusement for kids includes the shows and exhibits at the **Planetário** (p128), the animals of **Jardim Zoológico** at **Quinta da Boa Vista** (p156), the impressive ships at **Espaço Cultural da Marinha** (p153), and the mechanized displays at the **Museu de Földóric Edson Carnerio** (p151). You can also hire bikes (including big, shaded four-seaters) and visit the playground near the bike stand at **Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas** (p128).

In addition, children may also enjoy the following sights:

Mini-Rio (Map p137; 1st fl, Barra Shopping, Av das Américas, Barra da Tijuca; ☎ 10am-10pm) Small amusement area with bumper cars, boat and plane rides for little ones.

Museu Aeronáutico (Map p137; ☎ 2108 8954; www.musal.aer.mil.br in Portuguese; Av Marechal Fontenele 2000, Campo dos Afonsos; admission free; ☎ 9am-3pm Tue-Fri, 9:30am-4pm Sat & Sun) Expositions on Santos Dumont (the Brazilian father of aviation) and the role of Brazil's air force in WWII. Lots of old planes, including replicas of Santos Dumont's planes: the *14 Bis* and the *Demoiselle*.

Terra Encantada (Map p137; ☎ 2421 9444; www.terra-encantada.com.br in Portuguese; Av Ayrton Senna 2800, Barra da Tijuca; adult/child R\$36/18; ☎ 2-9pm Fri-Sun) The Enchanted Land includes Cabum, a 64m, 100km/h free fall, and Ressaca, a toboggan ride that goes over a waterfall, among many other rides.

TOURS

Favela Tours

Marcelo Armstrong (☎ 3322 2727; www.favelatour.com.br; per person R\$60) The pioneer of *favela* tourism, Marcelo takes small groups to visit the *favelas* of Rocinha and Vila Canoas near São Conrado, where he does an excellent job explaining the social and political context of the *favela* in relation to greater Rio de Janeiro. Marcelo's outfit donates a portion of its profits to *favela* social projects.

Paulo Amendoim (☎ 3322 8498, 9747 6860; paulo.amendoim@hotmail.com; 2-3hr tour per person R\$60) Former president of Rocinha's resident association, Paulo leads tours through Rio's biggest *favela* and offers visitors the chance to see beneath the stereotypes that characterize *favela* life.

Walking Tours

Cultural Rio (☎ 3322 4872, 9911 3829; www.culturalrio.com.br; 4hr tour per person from R\$100) Run by the loquacious and erudite Carlos Roquette, this tour offers visitors an in-depth look at social and historical aspects of Rio de Janeiro. Itineraries include a night at the Teatro Municipal, colonial Rio, baroque Rio, imperial Rio and a walking tour of Centro. Professor Roquette has been in business for over 20 years.

Fabio Sombra (☎ 2275 8605; www.fasombra.cjb.net; tour for 4 people R\$200) A multilingual artist still active as an arte naïf painter, Fabio leads tours around Centro and Santa Teresa. His most popular tour covers the ruins of the old port and historical sites around Praça XV de Novembro, the Mosteiro de São Bento and the Catedral Metropolitana, passing through Lapa and ending in Santa Teresa.

Luiz Amaral Tours (☎ 2259 5532; www.travelrio.com; tour per person around R\$100) A friendly, well-traveled Carioca with a good command of English, Luiz offers small-group tours around Rio, including visits to Santa Teresa, an exploration of beaches south of Barra and nightlife tours in Rio.

Private Tours (☎ 2232 9710; www.private-tours.com.br) Pedro Novak has been leading excursions around the city and further afield since 1992. He also offers jeep tours to Tijuca and Praia de Grumari as well as trips to Paraty, Parque Nacional de Itatiaia and beyond. He speaks English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

Bay Tours

Macuco Rio (Map pp144-5; ☎ 9200 3569; www.macuco-rio.com.br; Marina de Glória, Glória; cruise R\$50-100) Macuco's

high-velocity 28-seat speedboat offers a more exhilarating bay tour. Trips circle around the bay or head to Cagarras Archipelago, for bird- and possibly dolphin-spotting.

Marlin Yacht Tours (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2225 7434; www.marlinyacht.com.br; Marina da Glória, Glória; cruise R\$40-70) Marlin offers several tours aboard their large 30-person schooners to Cagarras Island, stopping for a beach swim along the way. They also offer a sunset cruise and sailing and diving trips.

Saveiros Tours (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2225 6064; www.saveiros.com.br; Marina de Glória, Glória; cruise R\$40-70) These bay tours involve two-hour cruises out over Baía de Guanabara in large schooners.

Other Tours

Bonde Histórico (☎ 2215 8581; per person R\$12; ☎ depart 10am & 2pm Sat) Three-hour tram tours run by the Museu do Bonde (Tram Museum). Guided tours of the Santa Teresa neighborhood illuminate historic points along the journey from downtown to the neighborhood of Silvestre and back, with a stop at the Museu do Bonde. Trams depart from the *bonde* station (Map pp144-5) on Rua Lúlio Gama in Centro.

Be a Local (☎ 9643 0366; www.bealocal.com; per person R\$30-60) Popular with backpackers, Be a Local offers group tours with a younger, edgier flavor. They offer *favela* tours (where you'll ride to the top of the *favela* by mototaxi), outings to football matches at Maracanã and trips to evening *favela* parties. Tours include pickup from your hostel/hotel. **Helisight** (☎ 2511 2141, 2542 7895; www.helisight.com.br; per person 6min/30min R\$150/520) Offering helicopter tours since 1991, Helisight has eight different itineraries, all giving a close-up view of Cristo Redentor and gorgeous views over the city. Price includes pick-up and drop-off from hotel. There is a three-person minimum.

Jeep Tour (☎ 2589 0883; www.jeepour.com.br; 4hr-tour incl hotel pick-up & drop-off per person around R\$150) Jeep Tour offers travel to the Parque Nacional da Tijuca atop a large, convertible jeep. The tour includes a stop at the Vista Chinesa, then on to the forest for an easy hike and a stop for a swim beneath a waterfall, before making the return journey.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Aside from Carnival, there are many other exciting events happening throughout the year. **Dia de São Sebastião** January 20 – The patron saint of the city is commemorated with a procession that carries his image from the Igreja de São Sebastião dos Capuchinos in Tijuca (Rua Haddock Lobo 266) to the Catedral Metropolitana, where it's blessed in a Mass celebrated by the archbishop of Rio de Janeiro.

Dia da Fundação da Cidade March 1 – The founding of the city by Estácio de Sá in 1565 is commemorated with a Mass in the church of its patron saint, São Sebastião.

Sexta-Feira da Paixão March or April – Good Friday is celebrated throughout the city. The most important ceremony is a reenactment of the Stations of the Cross under the Arcos do Lapa, carried out by more than a hundred actors.

Portas Abertas One weekend in May and in November – Santa Teresa's artists open their studios and the neighborhood becomes a living installation in this twice-yearly event. Dates change so stop by at Cama e Café (p169) or Parque das Ruínas (p155) for more information.

Festas Juninas June – The June Festival is one of the most important folkloric festivals in Brazil. In Rio, it's celebrated in various public squares throughout the month, primarily on June 13 (Dia de Santo Antônio), June 24 (Dia de São João) and June 29 (Dia de São Pedro).

Festa da São Pedro do Mar July 13 – The fishing community pays homage to its patron saint in a maritime procession. Decorated boats leave from the fishing district of Caju and sail to the statue of São Pedro in Urca.

Festa de NS da Glória do Outeiro August 15 – A solemn Mass is held in the Igreja de NS da Glória do Outeiro, which is ablaze with decorated lights, with a procession into the streets of Glória to mark the Feast of the Assumption. This festival includes music and colorful stalls set up in the Praça NS da Glória. Festivities start at 8am and continue all day.

Dia de Independência do Brasil September 7 – Independence Day is celebrated with a big military parade down Av Presidente Vargas. It starts at 8am at Candelária and goes just past Praça Onze, north of the Sambódromo. **Rio International Film Festival** September and October – The festival is one of the biggest in Latin America. Over 200 films from all over the world are shown at some 35 theaters. The festival usually runs for 15 days from the last week of September through to the first week of October. Check the website (www.festivaldorior.com.br in Portuguese) for details.

Rio Jazz Festival October – Features three nights of great music. National and international acts present a wide variety of music – not just jazz. Dates vary from year to year.

Festa da Penha October and November – This is one of the largest religious and popular festivals in the city. It takes place every Sunday in October and the first Sunday in November, at Igreja NS da Penha de França, Largo da Penha 19 in Penha. It's very lively.

Reveillon & Festa de Iemanjá December 31 – New Year's Eve (Reveillon) in Rio is celebrated by millions of people. Tons of fireworks explode in the sky over Copacabana. New Year's Eve coincides with the festival of Iemanjá, the sea goddess. Wearing white, the faithful carry a statue of Iemanjá to the beach and launch flowers and other offerings into the sea.

SLEEPING

Reservations are a good idea in Rio, and you can often save by booking ahead. Hotel rates rise during the summer months

LONG-TERM RENTALS

If you're planning to stay in Rio for longer than a few nights, you may consider renting an apartment, which is often much better value than staying in a hotel. The following agencies are adept at accommodating foreign visitors and can often arrange airport transportation, cell phone hire and provide other services. Apartments start at R\$120 per night.

Blame it on Rio 4 Travel (Map pp140-1; ☎ 3813 5510; www.blameitonorio4travel.com; Rua Xavier da Silveira 15B, Copacabana) This popular agency rents many types of apartments; it also rents cell phones and provides many other services.

Copacabana Holiday (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2542 1525; www.copacabanaholiday.com.br; Rua Barata Ribeiro 90A, Copacabana) Specializing in Copacabana, this agency rents apartments for a minimum of three days.

Fantastic Rio (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2543 2667; Apt 501, Av Atlântica 974, Leme) Multilingual Peter Corr of Fantastic Rio rents everything from modest one-bedrooms to spacious four-bedrooms with beach views.

Rio Apartments (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2235 7180; www.riopartments.com; Suite 301, Rua Farma de Amoedo 76, Ipanema) This highly professional outfit offers a wide selection of apartments in the Zona Sul, and can arrange cell phone rental, airport transport and more.

Vanna Rocha (☎ 2548 5030; www.vannarioflats.com.br) Vanna maintains a website of competitively priced apartment listings for Leblon, Ipanema and Copacabana. English spoken.

Yvonne Reimann (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2227 0281; Apt 605, Av Atlântica 4066, Copacabana) Yvonne rents a range of apartments in the area. She speaks French, German and English.

(December through February), and triple during New Year's Eve and Carnival. Most hotels will only book in four-day blocks around these holidays.

Keep in mind that some hotels add in a combined 15% service and tax charge, though cheaper places don't generally bother with this.

Ipanema & Leblon

Ocean views with access to Rio's loveliest beaches, restaurants and bars make Ipanema and Leblon a magnet among travelers. Not surprisingly, prices here are higher than elsewhere.

BUDGET

Casa 6 Ipanema (☎ 2247 1384; www.casa6ipanema.com; House 14, Rua Barão da Torre 175, Ipanema; dm/d with fan R\$40/120) On Ipanema's hostel row, this place has clean, basic, and extremely small rooms (with triple bunk beds), but staff is friendly and helpful and it's in a great location.

Lighthouse Hostel (☎ 2522 1353; www.thelighthouse.com.br; House 20, Rua Barão da Torre 175, Ipanema; dm/d R\$45/120; ☎ ☎) Along with a handful of other budget spots on this quiet lane, the Lighthouse has an easygoing vibe and clean, simple rooms that attract a good mix of backpackers. Accommodations consist of eight-bed dorm rooms and one private double.

Che Lagarto Ipanema (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 8076; www.chelagarto.com; Rua Paul Redfern 48, Ipanema; dm/d

R\$45/130) Part of a small empire of hostels in the Zona Sul, Che Lagarto's Ipanema branch is a five-story hostel, with tiny, basic rooms and not much common space – aside from the pricey bar on the 1st floor.

Ipanema Beach House (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3202 2693; www.ipanemahouse.com; Rua Barão da Torre 485, Ipanema; dm/d R\$45/140; ☎ ☎) One of Rio's loveliest hostels, the Ipanema Beach House is a converted two-story house with six- and nine-bed dorms (with three-tiered bunk beds). There are also several private rooms, spacious indoor and outdoor lounge spaces, a small bar and a pool.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Margarida's Pousada (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2239 1840; margaridacaneiro@hotmail.com; Rua Barão da Torre 600, Ipanema; s/d/apt from R\$75/120/140; ☎ ☎) This excellently located Ipanema guesthouse has pleasant, simply furnished rooms popular with young (French) travelers. There's also a bigger private apartment available for rent in a building nearby.

Hotel San Marco (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 5032; www.sanmarcohotel.net; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 524, Ipanema; s/d from R\$150/160; ☎ ☎) It's all about location if you stay at the San Marco. Rooms are clean but cramped, and the green bedspreads aren't winning any style awards.

Hotel Vermont (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2522 0057, fax 2267 7046; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 254, Ipanema; s/d R\$150/185; ☎ ☎) The Hotel Vermont offers no-frills

accommodations in a high-rise a few blocks from the beach. Hotel Vermont's small rooms are in need of renovation. Still, the location can't be beat.

Ipanema Flat Hotel Residência (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2523 1292; ipanemafiat_ipanema@yahoo.com.br; Rua Gomes Carneiro 137, Ipanema; s/d R\$170/190) The place is suffering from a bad case of style envy: cheaply furnished rooms are seriously short on it and just aching to get some. The simple apartments have kitchens, balconies (no view) and bland but clean bedrooms at prices hard to find elsewhere in this neighborhood.

Ipanema Sweet (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2551 0488; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 161, Ipanema; s/d apt from R\$200; 📍) The modern, furnished apartments at this amiable spot each have a kitchen, lounge and balcony (no view), and are good value. A mix of Brazilians and international visitors consistently rate the place well.

Arpoador Inn (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2523 0060; www.riodejaneiroguide.com/hotel/arpoador_inn.htm; Rua Francisco Otaviano 177, Ipanema; d with/without ocean view R\$390/205; 📍) This six-story is the only hotel in town that doesn't have a busy street between it and the beach. That said, Arpoador Inn is disappointing, with worn carpets and small rooms, and it's not worth staying if you don't pay for an ocean view.

Ipanema Inn (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2523 6092; www.riodejaneiroguide.com/hotel/ipanema_inn.htm; Rua Maria Quitéria 27, Ipanema; s/d from R\$240/270; 📍) Simple but attractive, Ipanema Inn's rooms are pleasant with nice touches including woodblock prints on the walls and modern bathrooms with full tubs. Friendly, multilingual staff.

Everest Park (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2525 2200; www.everest.com.br; Rua Maria Quitéria 19, Ipanema; d from US\$140) Just a block from the beach in a fantastic neighborhood, Everest Park is a fine hotel. The multilingual staff is very approachable, and the rooms are comfortable and nicely maintained. A woody smell in the corridors brings a scent of the country to the place.

Ritz Plaza Hotel (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 4940; www.ritzhotel.com.br; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1280, Leblon; d R\$310-345, apt R\$450; 📍 📍) This elegant all-suites hotel is in a sublime part of Leblon. Rooms are nicely furnished with artwork on the walls, good lighting and spotless bedrooms, and all have balconies – some with partial ocean views. The one-bedroom apartments have small kitchens and a separate lounge/dining area.

Sol Ipanema (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2525 8484; www.solipanema.com.br; Av Vieira Souto 320, Ipanema; s/d from

R\$322/360; 📍) The 15-story Sol Ipanema has an enviable position overlooking the beach. The well-decorated rooms feature dark-wood furnishings and good lighting. Oceanfront rooms cost about 20% more and are a worthy splurge if you can swing it.

Marina All Suites (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 5212; www.marinaallsuites.com.br; Av Delfim Moreira 696, Leblon; ste from R\$695) Marina All Suites offers style and comfort with wonderful ocean views. Elegantly furnished suites have decent sound systems and space enough for you to host your own small parties. The rooftop pool, lounge space and small movie theater are nice touches. Bar D'Hotel (p177), on the 2nd floor, attracts the beauty crowd.

Copacabana & Leme

Copacabana, particularly Av Atlântica, is packed with hotels. Quality and price varies considerably, and many places are in dire need of a makeover.

BUDGET

Rio Backpackers (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2236 3803; www.riobackpackers.com.br; Travessa Santa Leocádia 38, Copacabana; dm/d from R\$30/90; 📍 📍) Young backpackers flock to this popular three-story hotel. The rooms are small and basic, and there are choice spots to chill out. Staff has all the low-down on the city's nightlife.

Mellow Yellow Hostel (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2547 1993; www.mellowyellow.com.br; Rua General Barbosa Lima 51, Copacabana; dm/d from R\$30/100; 📍 📍) Copacabana's biggest hostel, Mellow Yellow attracts young travelers, who are willing to endure rustic accommodations in exchange for party atmosphere – complete with a bar, ample lounge space, a patio with spa and barbecue nights. Dorm rooms have anywhere from four to 24 beds; the cheapest lack air-conditioning.

Jucati (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2547 5422; www.edificiojucati.com.br; Rua Tenente Marones de Gusmão 85, Copacabana; dm R\$30, apt s/d/tr/q R\$100/120/140/160; 📍 📍) Overlooking a leafy park, this unsigned building hides one of Copacabana's best deals. In addition to dorms, there are simple apartments with small kitchens and room enough to sleep up to six.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Residencial Apartt (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2522 1722; www.apartt.com.br; Rua Francisco Otaviano 42, Arpoador; s/d R\$116/182) Located in Arpoador between Copacabana and Ipanema, this hotel has 25 one-bedroom suites, each with a small kitchen, a

lounge room (with cable TV) and a bedroom. Furnishings here are dated – floral patterns, dingy yellows and greens dominate – but for the price it's a good deal.

Hotel Santa Clara (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2256 2650; www.hotelsantadara.com.br; Rua Décio Vilares 316, Copacabana; s/d from R\$140/153) Up the street from a neighborhood park lies the Hotel Santa Clara, with its whitewashed exterior and blue shutters. The upstairs rooms are best, complete with wood floors, a writing desk and a refreshing balcony.

Ducasse Rio Hotel (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2522 1191; www.hotelducasse.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Sá Ferreira 76, Copacabana; s/d R\$160/170; 📍) At this price bracket, the Ducasse is ahead of the rest. The medium-sized rooms are simply furnished but bright and cozy. All rooms ending in 1, 2, 3 and 4 have balconies, which are just large enough to step out onto and take a breath of ocean air.

Hotel Vilamar (Map pp140-1; ☎ 3461 5601; www.hotelvilamarcopacabana.com.br; Rua Bolívar 75, Copacabana; s/d from R\$160/180; 📍 📍) Fairly new on the block, the 15-story Vilamar is on a quiet street and has pleasant clean-swept rooms with cheery bedspreads and big windows.

Apa Hotel (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2548 8112; www.apahotel.com.br; Rua República do Peru 305, Copacabana; s/d R\$165/180) The Apa is dated but has helpful staff and clean rooms. Some rooms have balconies.

Hotel Toledo (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2257 1995; www.hoteltoledo.com.br; Rua Domingos Ferreira 71, Copacabana; s/d R\$165/195; 📍) A block from the beach, the Toledo has aging, simply furnished rooms with either carpet or tile floors. Some have ocean views.

Atlantis Copacabana (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2521 1142; www.atlantishotel.com.br; Rua Bulhões de Carvalho 61, Copacabana; s/d R\$180/200; 📍) Between Copacabana and Ipanema, Atlantis is in a good location for exploring either neighborhood. The rooms here are short on elegance and inexpensively furnished, but rooms above the 9th floor have views.

Acapulco (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2275 0022; www.acapulcohotel.com.br; Rua Gustavo Sampaio 854, Leme; d from R\$190; 📍) After a much-needed renovation in 2005, Acapulco offers modern, streamlined rooms on a quiet street one block from the beach. It has a handful of suites for those seeking a bit more room.

Copacabana Praia Hotel (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2522 5646; www.copacabanapraiahotel.com.br; Rua Francisco Otaviano 30, Copacabana; d R\$200; 📍 📍) All rooms in the 11-story hotel have balconies and top-floor digs

have partial sea views. Rooms are comfortable but compact.

Copacabana Hotel Residência (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2548 7212; www.copahotelresid.com.br; Rua Barata Ribeiro 222, Copacabana; d R\$220; 📍 📍) A few blocks from the beach, the Copacabana Hotel Residência has 70 spacious suites with small kitchen units, living rooms and clean, well-maintained quarters, though it's very cheaply furnished.

Hotel Debret (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2522 0132; www.debret.com; Av Atlântica 3564, Copacabana; d from R\$230) The Hotel Debret is a traditional hotel in a converted apartment building. It has simple colonial-style furnishings and great views from the top-floor restaurant. The ocean-fronting rooms (*luxos*; luxury rooms) are recommended.

Orla Copacabana (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2525 2425; www.orlahotel.com.br; Av Atlântica 4122, Copacabana; d from R\$275; 📍 📍) The entrance to the Orla Copacabana is past sleek lounge chairs, artfully lit flower arrangements and giant canvases along the wall. Upstairs, the design falters a bit but still presents modern furnishings, marble-fixtured bathrooms and decent views. There's a rooftop pool and patio.

Ourpik Rio Guesthouse (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2521 8568; www.rioguesthouse.com; Rua Francisco Sá 5, Copacabana; d R\$280-450; 📍) On the top floor of a high-rise overlooking Copacabana Beach, this small guesthouse offers handsomely decorated rooms in a welcoming setting. There's also a sunny patio overlooking Copacabana Beach.

Design Hotel Portinari (Map pp140-1; ☎ 3222 8800; www.hotelportinari.com.br; Rua Francisco Sá 17, Copacabana; d from R\$290; 📍) This stylish 13-story hotel has artfully lit rooms with comfortable beds, big windows and tile floors. The top-floor restaurant is set with tropical plants and boasts fine views through the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Parthenon Arpoador (Map pp140-1; ☎ 3222 9600; www.mercure.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Francisco Otaviano 61, Copacabana; ste from R\$340; 📍 📍) The all-suites Parthenon Arpoador has rooms with sleek white leather sofas that open into beds, modern kitchenettes, TVs with stereo and DVD player, ambient lighting and comfortable bedrooms. All have verandas – though there's no view. In addition to a long, narrow swimming pool, there's also a sauna and workout room.

Le Meridien (Map pp140-1; ☎ 3873 8888; mail@lemeridien-riodejaneiro.com; Av Atlântica 1020, Leme; d from R\$380) A decadent affair, Le Meridien has all the trappings of luxury: crisply dressed staff, elegant lobby, excellent French restaurant on

the 37th floor. The rooms are comfortable and spacious but hardly inspiring. The view, however, is, so be sure to book the *luxo*.

Copacabana Palace (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2548 7070; www.copacabanapalace.com.br; Av Atlântica 1702, Copacabana; d from R\$880) The city's most famous hotel, the Palace has hosted heads of state and rock stars (including the Rolling Stones in 2005). The dazzling white facade dates from the 1920s, when the hotel became a symbol of the city. Inside you'll find a range of rooms, a wonderful pool and excellent restaurants.

Botafogo

Although there aren't many accommodations in the area, this is where you'll find an authentic slice of Rio – its tree-lined streets, old-school *botecos* and non-touristy restaurants.

El Misti Hostel (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2226 0991; www.elmistihostel.com; Praia do Botafogo 462, House 9, Botafogo; dm/s/d R\$25/100/140, s/d without bathroom R\$80/120; 📶) Located along Botafogo's hostel row, El Misti is a popular budget spot among Brazilian and foreign travelers for its cheap dorm rooms (with triple bunk beds) and lively atmosphere. It's a short walk to the Botafogo metro station.

O Veleiro (☎ 2554 8980; s/d from US\$62/69; 📶 📶) O Veleiro is a B&B surrounded by remnants of Atlantic rain forest, offering attractive rooms in a friendly, welcoming setting. There's a pool, backyard and splendid garden views over the hillside. It's a 20-minute walk up from Botafogo beach. The owners only give out the address to those confirming reservations. For more information, call the telephone number provided.

Flamengo, Catete & Glória

These middle-class neighborhoods have affordable options if you don't mind being far from the beach.

BUDGET

Hotel Monterrey (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2265 9899; Rua Arturo Bernardes 39, Catete; s without bathroom R\$30, s/d with fan R\$50/70) It's a bit of a dump, but if you're short on cash, and have sworn off hostels, Monterrey might be for you. Rooms are small and basic and some lack windows.

Hotel Riazor (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2225 0121; hotel.riazor1@hotmail.com; Rua do Catete 160, Catete; s/d R\$50/75; 📶) The pretty colonial facade of the Riazor hides basic quarters, which are not bad for the price. Sparkling wall paint and round

beds are features in some. Others are simple, straightforward affairs.

Hotel Ferreira Viana (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2205 7396; Rua Ferreira Viana 58, Catete; s/d R\$55/75; 📶) The best rooms here have good light, bright tiled floors, modern furnishings and plenty of space. Not all the rooms are decent, however, so see a few before committing.

Hotel Turístico (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2557 7698; fax 2558 9388; Ladeira da Glória 30, Glória; s/d R\$60/80; 📶) On a quiet street near the Igreja de NS da Glória do Outeiro, the Turístico is a friendly spot with clean, well-maintained rooms – some with balconies.

Hotel Caxambu (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2265 9496; Rua Corrêa Dutra 22, Catete; s/d R\$65/75; 📶) This nicely renovated place maintains a higher standard than other budget options. Rooms are clean, though some lack natural light.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Imperial Hotel (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2556 5212; www.imperialhotel.com.br; Rua do Catete 186, Catete; d from R\$120; 📶 📶) A fair choice for Catete, this hotel is set in a lovely white three-story building. The rooms here are clean and modern, and *luxos* have whirlpool tubs.

Mengo Palace Hotel (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2556 5343; mengohotel@infolinik.com.br; Rua Corrêa Dutra 31, Flamengo; s/d ste from R\$150/180; 📶) Mengo Palace is a clean, modern all-suites hotel with a forlorn air about it. The rooms are small with pressed wood floors, carpeting on the walls and whirlpool bathtubs big enough for two. The beds are a little stiff.

Hotel Glória (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2555 7373; www.hotelgloriano.com.br; Rua do Russel 632, Glória; d from R\$165; 📶 📶) Once a grand 1920s beachfront hotel, Glória still retains the aura of its past splendor, when it overlooked prime beachfront. Red carpets and old paintings line the hallways, along with antique fixtures and liberal use of brass. Glória lost its glory when the tunnel to Copacabana was constructed. If you stay here, book your room in the old part of the hotel, with its antique-filled rooms, fine verandas and sitting rooms.

Santa Teresa

A growing number of hotels have opened in Santa Teresa in recent years, drawing travelers to this intriguing, arts-loving neighborhood. Do take care when walking around, day or night, as muggings are not uncommon.

BUDGET & MIDRANGE

Pousada Favelinha (Map pp142-3; www.favelinha.com; Rua Antonio Joaquim 13, Morro do Pereirão da Silva; dm/d R\$35/75) This clean, attractive guesthouse is one of the only guesthouses of its kind in Brazil. Located in the Favela Pereirão da Silva, Favelinha has four double rooms and a 5-bed dorm room, all with balconies that have stunning views over the city to Pão de Açúcar. There's also a terrace, a lounge for guests, and lots of insider info from the welcoming Brazilian-German owners. While the Pereirão da Silva is one of Rio's more peaceful *favelas*, this place isn't for everyone – some love it; some don't. To get there, take the *bonde* to Colegio Asunção (Rua Almirante Alexandrino 2024) and enter the favela through the school grounds.

Rio Hostel (Map pp144-5; ☎ 3852 0827; www.rio.hostel.com; Rua Joaquim Murinho 361, Santa Teresa; dm/d/chalet R\$37/100/120; 📶 📶) A favorite among travelers, Rio Hostel provides a home away from home, with handsomely designed rooms, a cozy lounge and a backyard patio. The spirit of bonhomie prevails with barbecues and occasional jam sessions by guests and local musicians.

Cama e Café (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2224 5689; www.camaecafe.com.br; Rua Pascoal Carlos Magno 5; d from R\$90) Cama e Café is a B&B network that links travelers with local residents, making it a brilliant way to get an insider take on the neighborhood. There's a pool of some 50 houses to choose from, and guests can select their accommodations by location and comfort level. Accommodations range from modest to lavish, with a decent breakfast and sizable rooms with private bathrooms common to all. Check the website for listings.

Casa Áurea (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 5830; www.casaurea.com.br; Rua Áurea 80; d R\$90-140) Set on a quiet street, this handsome two-story house has been converted into a simple guesthouse with pleasant, airy rooms and a small garden with hammocks out back.

Casa Mango Mango (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2508 6440; www.casamangomango.com; Rua Joaquim Murinho 587; dm R\$35, d without/with bathroom R\$120/168; 📶 📶) In an atmospheric Victorian mansion, this friendly guesthouse has comfortable, spacious rooms and a lush garden and patio. Excellent breakfasts.

Castelinho 38 (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 2549; www.castelinho38.com; Rua Triunfo 38; s/d from R\$120/150; 📶) Opened as a guesthouse in 2006, Castelinho

offers a range of spacious rooms with high ceilings, wood floors and a light, airy design. It's set in a mid-19th-century mansion and has an outdoor terrace with a garden and lounge space.

our pick Solar de Santa (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 2117; www.solardeSanta.com; Ladeira do Meireles 32; d R\$385-565; 📶 📶) Set in a converted colonial villa, this marvelous boutique hotel has beautifully designed rooms with wood floors and colorful details. Rooms open onto a veranda with splendid views through the lush foliage out front to downtown. Overlooking the lush grounds is a patio, ideal for an afternoon drink.

Mama Ruisa (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 1281; www.mamaruisa.com; Rua Santa Cristina 132; d from €220; 📶 📶) Another of Santa Teresa's new boutique hotels, Mama Ruisa aims for bohemian chic in its seven spacious, uniquely designed guestrooms. Every whim is catered for in this lovely converted colonial mansion, and guests can opt for massages, private tours or just enjoy the spectacular view over the bay from the swimming pool.

EATING

Rio has an impressive array of restaurants, serving Brazilian regional cuisine along with international and fusion fare. In general, Ipanema and Leblon boast Rio's best dining scene, though every neighborhood has its gems.

You can eat on the cheap (try per-kilo places and juice bars), but it's worth splashing out for a meal once and a while (dinner for two averaging R\$80 to R\$120) to enjoy fantastic cuisine in some beautiful settings. Among Rio's quintessential dining experiences: feasting at a *churrascaria* (all-you-can-eat barbecued meat restaurant), dining alfresco beside the lake in Lagoa, joining the fashion parade at a sidewalk café in Ipanema, chowing on local favorites at a neighborhood *boteco* and lingering over the sweeping views from a restaurant patio in high-up Santa Teresa.

Ipanema & Leblon

By day, Ipanema's busy cafés and juice bars fill with bronze bodies heading to and from the beach, while at night its tree-lined streets make a picturesque setting for open-air dining. Leblon's Rua Dias Ferreira and Ipanema's Rua Garcia D'Ávila are packed with dining options.

For fresh tropical fruits, visit the *feiras* (produce markets), which are on Monday on Rua Henrique Dumont (Ipanema), Tuesday on Praça General Osório (Ipanema), Thursday on Rua General Urquiza (Leblon) and Friday on Praça NS de Paz (Ipanema). On Sunday, the Hippie Fair, in Praça General Osório (Ipanema), has a stall in the southeast corner of the plaza where you can buy tasty Northeastern cuisine. Don't miss it.

BUDGET

Polis Sucos (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 2518; Rua Maria Quitéria 70, Ipanema; juices R\$3-4; ☎ 7am-midnight) Serving 40 or so juices, Polis Sucos is a great place to get your vitamins, and you can pair those tangy beverages with sandwiches (vegetarian, chicken, filet mignon).

Fontes (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 5900; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 605D, Ipanema; mains R\$7-10; ☎ 11am-10pm Mon-Sat, noon-8pm Sun) Hidden in a nondescript shopping plaza, this tiny, low-key restaurant serves decent vegetarian meals. The menu changes daily but features shiitake-filled manioc pastries, green salads, roasted eggplant and the like. On Saturday, the rich, smoked-tofu *feijoada* draws a crowd.

Mel & Pimenta (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2227 1477; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 44B, Ipanema; mains R\$7-15; ☎ 9am-6pm) This attractive, airy bistro serves fresh salads, quiches, sandwiches, crepes and other light fare.

Delírio Tropical (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3201 2977; Rua Garcia D'Ávila 48, Ipanema; salads R\$8-12; ☎ 9am-9pm) Delírio Tropical serves 16 different varieties of salad along with soups and hot dishes (veggie burgers, grilled salmon). The open layout has a pleasant, casual vibe, with big windows overlooking the street. Breakfast also served.

New Natural (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2287 0301; Rua Barão da Torre 167, Ipanema; lunch specials R\$12; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun) Featuring an excellent lunch buffet with many vegetarian options, New Natural has fresh pots of soup, rice, veggies and beans for rock-bottom prices.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Vegetariano Social Club (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 6499; Rua Conde de Bernadotte 26L, Leblon; mains R\$14-24; ☎ noon-5:30pm) On Saturday vegetarians can sample Brazil's signature dish at this zenlike spot when tofu *feijoada* is served. Other offerings include salads, soups, *sucos* (juices) and organic wine.

Gula Gula (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2259 3084; Rua Anibal de Mendonça 132, Ipanema; mains R\$20-30; ☎ noon-midnight) Gula Gula is a popular, low-key spot serving quiches and salads, as well as grilled meats and other Brazilian dishes. For dessert, try the rich chocolate mousse (order it *quente*, hot).

Nam Thai (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2259 2962; Rua Rainha Guilhermina 95B, Leblon; mains R\$28-40; ☎ lunch Tue-Sun, dinner nightly) The charming, colonial Nam Thai features Thai and fusion dishes, such as spicy shrimp curry with pineapple and squid salad. Don't miss the *caipivodka de lychee* (litchi vodka *caipirinha*).

Capricciosa (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2494 2212; Rua Vinícius de Moraes 134, Ipanema; mains R\$29-41; ☎ dinner) This trendy spot serves a huge variety of hand-somely prepared, thin-crust pizzas.

Nik Sushi (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 6446; Rua Garcia D'Ávila 83, Ipanema; all-you-can-eat lunch/dinner R\$29/41; ☎ lunch & dinner) Nik Sushi is an attractively set Japanese restaurant that's much liked among neighborhood regulars for its all-you-can-eat sushi specials.

Bazzar (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3202 2884; Rua Barão da Torre 538, Ipanema; mains R\$30-45; ☎ lunch & dinner) On a quiet, tree-lined street, Bazzar is a handsomely designed contemporary restaurant, serving unique dishes like grilled *namorada* (a type of perch) with whole grain rice, citrus and pesto, and lamb with polenta and mushrooms. Outdoor seating in front.

Osteria Dell'Angolo (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2259 3148; Rua Paul Redfern 40, Ipanema; mains R\$32-50; ☎ noon-4pm & 6pm until last customer Mon-Fri, 6pm until last customer Sat & Sun) Northern Italian cuisine is served here with consummate skill, and the *risotto nero di sepiá* (squid risotto in ink sauce) is one of the best dishes on the menu. President Lula, among other notable visitors, has dined here.

Salitre (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3205 6977; Av General San Martín 857, Leblon; mains R\$34-52; ☎ breakfast, lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) Above a wine store and gourmet delicatessen, Salitre serves unique international fare like sweet potato gnocchi with salmon as well as grilled dishes, and luscious desserts (just visit the counter on the first floor). Breakfast features homemade breads (a rarity in these parts).

Ourpick Zazá Bistrô Tropical (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 9101; Rua Joana Angélica 40, Ipanema; mains R\$35; ☎ 7:30pm-midnight) French-colonial decor and delicately spiced cuisine await those venturing inside this charming converted house in Ipanema. Inventive combinations, blending

East and West, match the seductive mood inside. Upstairs, diners lounge on throw pillows, with candles glowing along the walls. Those who prefer fresh air can dine on the porch out front.

Casa da Feijoada (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 2776; Rua Prudente de Moraes 10B, Ipanema; feijoada R\$37; ☎ noon-11:30pm) At this longstanding institution, any day is fine to sample the rich, black bean and salted pork dish. The *feijoada* is served with the requisite orange slices, *farofa* (manioc flour sautéed with butter) and grated kale, all of which pair nicely with a *caipirinha*.

Fellini (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2511 3600; Rua General Urquiza 104, Leblon; per kg R\$44; ☎ lunch & dinner) Fellini's high-quality buffet has something for everyone: salads, pastas, grilled fish and shrimp, sushi and roast meats.

Sushi Leblon (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 7830; Rua Dias Ferreira 256, Leblon; dinner for 2 R\$75-150; ☎ lunch & dinner) Leblon's premier sushi destination, Sushi Leblon boasts creative additions to its award-winning sashimi. The usual stylish crowd gathers here – and the wait can be exhausting – so steel yourself with a few rounds of sake.

CAFÉS & DESSERT SHOPS

Kurt (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2294 0599; Rua General Urquiza 117B, Leblon; desserts R\$3-6; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) At Kurt, flaky strudels and palm-sized tortes with strawberries and kiwifruit pair nicely with cappuccinos.

Armazém do Café (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2259 0170; Rua Rita Ludolf 87B, Leblon; cappuccino R\$4; ☎ 9am-midnight) Dark wood furnishings and the scent of freshly ground coffee lend an authenticity to this Leblon coffeehouse. Armazém also serves snacks and desserts.

Cafeina (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2521 2194; Rua Farme de Amoedo 43, Ipanema; desserts R\$6-8; ☎ 9am-8pm Sun & Mon, 8am-11:30pm Tue-Sat) The popular café, in the heart of Ipanema, has outdoor tables for enjoying the waffles, desserts, coffees and espressos.

Ateliê Culinário (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2239 2825; Rua Dias Ferreira 45, Leblon; desserts R\$6-10; ☎ 6pm-1am Mon-Fri, 1pm-1am Sat & Sun) Offering a tempting assortment of desserts, this small outdoor café is a good place to linger over dense cheesecake with guava sauce and/or moist chocolate cake.

Enviada (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 1313; Rua Dias Ferreira 45, Leblon; desserts R\$6-10; ☎ noon-6pm) An elegant café with heavenly chocolates, ice cream, cakes, teas and coffees.

B! (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2249 4977; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 572, Ipanema; salads R\$12-16; ☎ 9am-midnight Mon-Sat, 1pm-midnight Sun) On the 2nd floor of the bookstore Livraria da Travessa, this stylish café makes a cozy setting for a coffee, desserts or a light meal.

QUICK EATS & TAKE-OUT

Cobal de Leblon (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2239 1549; Rua Gilberto Cardoso, Leblon; ☎ closed Sun) This charming market has lots of fruit and veggies for sale. You can also grab a bite at one of the many restaurants and cafés here.

HortiFruti (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 6820; Rua Dias Ferreira 57, Leblon; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, to 2pm Sun) Leblon's popular indoor fruit and vegetable market.

Zona Sul Supermarket (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2259 4699; Rua Dias Ferreira 290, Leblon; ☎ 24hr, closed midnight Sun to 7am Mon) The best branch of Rio's supermarket chain stocks plenty of freshly baked breads, imported cheeses, wine, prosciutto and thousands of other products.

Mustafá (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 7299; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1174, Leblon; snacks R\$2-8; ☎ noon-7pm) This small take-out counter in Leblon serves fresh pita bread, tabbouleh, hummus and *quibe* (cracked wheat stuffed with spiced meat, then deep-fried).

Mil Frutas (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2521 1384; Rua Garcia D'Ávila 134A, Ipanema; ice cream R\$6-10; ☎ 10:30am-1am Mon-Fri, 9:30am-1am Sat & Sun) Mil Frutas serves sandwich wraps, as well as tasty ice cream that showcases fruits from the Amazon and abroad. Try the *jaca* (jackfruit), litchi or *açai* (berrylike fruit). There's a small patio in front.

Frontera (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3289 2350; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 128, Ipanema; per kg R\$35-38; ☎ 11am-11pm) Run by a Dutch chef, Frontera offers more than 60 plates at its delectable lunch buffet, featuring a medley of French, Thai, Italian, Indian and other world flavors. It has cozier atmosphere than most per-kilo places.

Da Silva (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2521 1289; Rua Barão da Torre 340, Ipanema; per kg R\$36; ☎ 11:30-2am) Da Silva spreads a fine buffet of excellent Portuguese cuisine, including lamb stew, pork tenderloin and delicate desserts.

Garcia & Rodrigues (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3206 4100; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1251, Leblon; per kg R\$40; ☎ 8am-midnight Mon-Thu & Sun, to 1am Fri & Sat) This French restaurant has a lovely deli where you'll find fresh bakery items, imported cheeses, salads, wines and desserts.

Gávea, Jardim Botânico & Lagoa

During the summer, live music fills the air as diners eat, drink and stroll along the lake. Rua Jota Jota Seabra is Jardim Botânico's most happening eating and drinking spot.

Braseiro da Gávea (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2239 7494; Praça Santos Dumont 116, Gávea; mains R\$16-24; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Sat) Extremely popular with the weekend crowd, this breezy bistro serves large portions of its popular steak, pot roast and fried chicken.

Arab da Lagoa (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 0747; Parque dos Patins, Av Borges de Medeiros, Lagoa; platter for 2 R\$46; ☎ 10am-1am) One of numerous outdoor restaurants on the lake, this popular spot serves traditional Middle Eastern specialties like hummus, baba ghanoush, tabbouleh, *quibe* and tasty thin-crust pizzas. The large platters for two or more are a good option for sharing. During the day, it's a peaceful refuge from the city, while at night you can hear live samba, *choro* (romantic, intimate samba) or jazz from 9pm (music charge R\$6).

Guimas (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2259 7996; Rua José Roberto Macedo Soares 5, Gávea; mains R\$24-36; ☎ noon-1am) A classic open-air *boteco* with creative flair, Guimas has been going strong for over 20 years. Trout with leeks and roast duck go well with superfine *caipivodcas* (vodka *caipirinhas*).

00 (Zero Zero; Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 8041; Planetário, Av Padre Leonel Franca 240, Gávea; mains R\$30-45; ☎ 8pm-late) Inside Gávea's planetarium, 00 is a sleek restaurant-lounge that serves Brazilian cuisine with Asian and Mediterranean accents. After dinner, have a few cocktails and stick around: some of Rio's best DJs spin at parties here.

Escola do Pão (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2294 0027; Rua General Garzon 10, Lagoa; brunch R\$40; ☎ 5pm-midnight Tue-Sat, 9am-1pm Sat & Sun) In a converted colonial mansion, this beautifully decorated restaurant serves delightful French fare by night, but their decadent weekend brunch is famed.

Olympe (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2539 4542; Rua Custódio Serão 62, Lagoa; mains around R\$78; ☎ dinner Mon-Sat, lunch Fri) One of Rio's best chefs, Claude Troisgros continues to dazzle guests with unforgettable meals at his award-winning restaurant. Originally from France, Troisgros mixes old-world with new in ever inventive combinations. The setting is in a lovely house on a tree-lined street.

Copacabana & Leme

Copacabana has everything from five-star dining rooms atop beach-fronting hotels to

charming old-fashioned bistros. Although the open-air restaurants along Av Atlântica have a nice view, the food isn't so hot, and things get a little seedy at night.

For fresh fruits, visit Copacabana *feiras*, which happen on Wednesday on Rua Domingos Ferreira, Thursday on Rua Belford Roxo and Rua Ronald de Carvalho, and Sunday on Rua Décio Vilares. Supermarkets include **Pão de Açúcar** (Av NS de Copacabana 497; ☎ 24hr) and the fruit-filled **HortiFruti** (Map pp140-1; Av Prado Junior 277; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, 8am-2pm Sun).

BUDGET

Yonza (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2521 4248; Rua Miguel Lemos 21B, Copacabana; crepes R\$10-16; ☎ 1pm-midnight lunch Tue-Fri, 6pm-midnight Sat & Sun) A young crowd flocks to this colorful creperie at night to fill up on hearty, inexpensive plates. Among the favorites: *picanha com gorgonzola* (steak with gorgonzola).

Cervantes (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2275 6147; Av Prado Júnior 335B, Copacabana; sandwiches R\$12-18; ☎ noon-late Tue-Sun) This Copacabana institution gathers a mixed crowd who feast on trademark meat-and-pineapple sandwiches. Fussy waiters are quick to the tap when your *chope* runneth dry. Around the corner, at Rua Barato Ribeiro 7, is Cervantes' stand-up *boteco*, good for a meal in a hurry.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Galeria 1618 (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2295 1618; Rua Gustavo Sampaio 840, Leme; mains R\$15-26; ☎ 9am-11pm) Equal parts bookstore, art gallery and bistro, Galeria 1618 serves tasty quiches, coffee, juices and desserts to an attractive middle-class crowd. It also serves an excellent daily special – risotto with shrimp and the like.

Botequim Informal (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2255 4746; Rua Domingos Ferreira 215, Copacabana; mains R\$17-23; ☎ lunch & dinner) One of the neighborhood's popular meeting points, this airy bar and restaurant serves Brazilian standards and cold beer on a quiet tree-lined street.

La Trattoria (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2255 3319; Rua Fernando Mendes 7A, Copacabana; mains R\$18-32; ☎ 11am-1am) This casual but festive Italian trattoria has been a neighborhood favorite for over 25 years. Seafood pasta dishes are particularly recommended.

Azumi (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2541 4294; Rua Ministro Viveiros de Castro 127, Copacabana; plates R\$20-40; ☎ dinner Tue-Sat) This low-key sushi bar is a favorite among the *nisei* (second-generation Japanese born

in Brazil) community. Azumi's *sushiman* (sushi chef) masterfully prepares delectable sushi and sashimi. Tempuras and soups are also excellent.

Copa Café (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2235 2947; Av Atlântica 3056, Copacabana; mains R\$20-44; ☎ 7pm-2am Tue-Sun) Facing the beach, this sleek, lounge-like place has black wood floors, white bar stools, an open layout and electronic music. The menu features high-end bistro fare: fresh fish, steak and gourmet burgers.

Carretão (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2542 2148; Rua Ronald de Carvalho 55, Copacabana; all-you-can-eat R\$28; ☎ 11:30am-midnight) It's all about the meat at this inexpensive *churrascaria*. There is another branch in Ipanema, at Rua Visconde de Pirajá 112.

Amir (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2275 5596; Rua Ronald de Carvalho 55C, Copacabana; mains R\$28-35, all-you-can-eat R\$35; ☎ lunch & dinner) Serving some of Rio's best Middle Eastern dishes, this enticing two-story restaurant near the beach offers consistently good plates of hummus, *kaftas* (savory meatballs), falafel and salads. The truly ravenous can opt for the *rodízio* (all-you-can-eat smorgasbord), brought to your table.

Capricciosa (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2255 2598; Rua Domingos Ferreira 187, Copacabana; mains R\$29-41; ☎ dinner) This stylish spot serves excellent thin-crust pizzas.

Le Blé Noir (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2287 1272; Rua Xavier da Silveira 15A, Copacabana; mains R\$30-45; ☎ dinner) Flickering candles, subdued conversation and tasty crepes make this popular restaurant a real date-pleaser.

Siri Mole (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2267 0894; Rua Francisco Otaviano 50, Copacabana; mains for two R\$80; ☎ dinner daily, lunch Tue-Sun) Understated elegance is the key to Siri Mole's long-standing success – both in ambience and in the perfectly prepared seafood. Among the favorites at this award-winning restaurant: *moqueca de siri mole* (spicy, soft-shell crab stew) and *acarajé* (spicy, shrimp-filled croquettes).

Marius Crustáceos (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2104 9002; Av Atlântica 290A, Leme; per person R\$130; ☎ lunch & dinner) Although the price is sky-high here, this all-you-can-eat seafood restaurant has many fans. The waiters file through the dining room bearing delectable fruits of the sea – lobster, mussels, oysters, tuna, salmon, scallops and more. Next door is **Marius Carnes** (☎ 2104 9102; Av Atlântica 290B, Leme; per person R\$85; ☎ lunch and dinner), serving delicious cuts of steak.

CAFÉS & DESSERT SHOPS

Cafeina (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2547 8651; Rua Constante Ramos 44, Copacabana; pastries R\$2-4; ☎ 8:30am-11:30pm Tue-Sat, 9am-8:30pm Sun & Mon) A few blocks from the beach, Cafeina is a pleasant indoor and outdoor spot that serves good coffee and a variety of baked goods.

Bakers (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2256 7000; Rua Santa Clara 86B, Copacabana; Danishes R\$4; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, to 6:30pm Sat, 9am-5pm Sun) Behind shiny counter-tops are tasty banana Danishes, apple strudels and flaky croissants.

Confeitaria Colombo (Map pp140-1; ☎ 3201 4049; Forte de Copacabana, Praça Coronel Eugênio Franco, Copacabana; snacks R\$4-10; ☎ 10am-8pm Tue-Sun) Located inside the Forte de Copacabana (admission R\$2), this café has shady outdoor tables with magnificent views of Copacabana Beach.

Botafogo & Urca

Cobal de Humaitá (Map pp142-3; Rua Voluntários da Pátria 446, Botafogo; ☎ closed Sun) This place is a fruit and flower market by day, with lively cafés and restaurants that open at night.

Livraria Prefácio (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2527 5699; Rua Voluntários da Pátria 39, Botafogo; mains R\$14-24; ☎ 2-10pm) In the back of a small bookshop, this café is a charming spot for a light meal or a drink.

Garota da Urca (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2541 8585; Av João Luís Alves 56, Urca; mains for two R\$30-50; ☎ noon-2am) Overlooking the small Praia da Urca, this neighborhood restaurant serves standard Brazilian fare, but the stunning views from the open-air veranda are the real draw.

Botequim Informal (Map pp142-3; ☎ 3171 6442; Praia de Botafogo 400, Botafogo; mains R\$18-30; ☎ noon-8:30pm) Located on the 7th floor of the Botafogo Praia Shopping, Botequim Informal has a fairly standard menu, but boasts spectacular views of the bay and Pão de Açúcar. It's one of many eateries in the mall.

Stravaganze (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2535 0591; Rua Visconde de Caravelas 121, Botafogo; pizzas R\$25-35; ☎ 6pm-midnight Mon-Sat) This small, elegant restaurant serves piping-hot pizzas cooked in a wood-burning oven. Fresh ingredients and excellent variety, along with attentive service, make this one of Rio's top pizza picks.

Adega do Valentim (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2541 1166; Rua da Passagem 178, Botafogo; mains R\$26-42; ☎ noon-1am) *Bacalhau* (cod) is the specialty at this old-fashioned Portuguese restaurant, which offers over a dozen different ways of preparation. Jocular waiters serve up plenty of other favorites.

Carême (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2537 2274; Rua Visconde de Caravelas 113, Botafogo; mains R\$30-50; ☎ 8pm-midnight Tue-Sat) This French bistro serves excellent plates of marinated snapper, braised rabbit, and apple-and-nut risotto (among other vegetarian offerings). The desserts at Carême are legendary.

Yorubá (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2541 9387; Rua Arnaldo Quintela 94, Botafogo; mains for two R\$70-90; ☎ 7-11pm Wed-Fri, 2-11pm Sat, noon-6pm Sun) Candlelit Yorubá looks as if it's always ready for the arrival of an *orixá* (deity of Candomblé). And if the goddess Iemanjá were to pay a surprise visit, she'd find heavenly plump shrimp and rich coconut milk blended to perfection in *babão de camarão*, and outstanding *moqueca* (Bahian fish stew).

Flamengo, Catete & Glória

On weekend nights, the restaurants and bars lining Rua Marquês de Abrantes crowd with neighborhood diners. In Catete, the streets near Largo do Machado have a few popular outdoor restaurants.

BUDGET

Estação República (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2225 2650; Rua do Catete 104, Catete; per kg R\$19; ☎ 11am-11pm) Estação's buffet table is a neighborhood institution. Featuring an extensive selection of salads, meats, pastas and vegetables, it's easy to indulge without breaking the bank.

Catete Grill (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2285 3442; Rua do Catete 239, Catete; per kg R\$21; ☎ 11am-11pm) This modern per-kilo restaurant is a good inexpensive lunch or dinner choice when exploring the neighborhood. Good variety of salads, pastas, seafood and grilled meats.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Severyna da Glória (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2224 6604; Rua Santo Amaro 38, Glória; mains R\$12-16; ☎ 11am-11pm) One of the rare gems of the neighborhood, Severyna is a cozy restaurant with rustic décor and satisfying plates of *carne seca* (dried meat with spices), *moqueca* and other classic Northeastern fare. There's live music Thursday to Sunday nights at 8pm (R\$6).

Armazem do Chopp (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2557 4052; Rua Marquês de Abrantes 66, Flamengo; mains R\$14-20; ☎ noon-midnight) In a barnlike structure above the street, Armazem do Chopp is a neighborhood favorite for its tasty grilled dishes and traditional inexpensive Brazilian fare (with

lunch specials). At night, its open-air front deck is a lively place for ice-cold drafts.

Taberna da Glória (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2265 7835; Rua do Russel 32A, Glória; mains R\$17-25; ☎ noon-1am) On a small plaza in the heart of Glória, this large outdoor eatery serves filling Brazilian grilled steaks and fish, and its *feijoada* on Saturday still draws crowds.

Belmonte (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2552 3349; Praia do Flamengo 300, Flamengo; mains R\$18-36; ☎ 7am-late) One of the city's classic *boteecos* (and now a popular chain), Belmonte is a vision of 1950s Rio. Beneath globe lights, a few patrons steel their nerves with *cachaça* as unhurried waiters make their way across the tile floors, carrying plates of trout or steak sandwiches.

Churrascaria Majórica (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2285 6789; Rua Senador Vergueiro 11, Flamengo; mains for two R\$50; ☎ noon-midnight Tue-Sat) Meat is very serious business at Majórica, and if you're looking for an authentic *churrascaria* experience, look no further.

Lamas (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2556 0799; Rua Marquês de Abrantes 18A, Flamengo; mains R\$25-45; ☎ dinner) This classic restaurant opened in 1874, and in spite of the mileage, dishes here hold up well. You can't go wrong with grilled *linguiça* (garlicky pork sausage) or filet mignon.

Casa da Suíça (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2552 5182; Rua Cândido Mendes 157, Glória; fondues R\$42; ☎ lunch Sun-Fri, dinner daily) Tucked away on a quiet street in Glória lies a slice of Switzerland in the tropics. Featuring flambés, fondues and an ever-changing menu, Casa da Suíça has a strong culinary reputation.

Porcão Rio's (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2554 8535; Av Infante Dom Henrique, Flamengo; all-you-can-eat R\$60; ☎ 11:30am-midnight) Set in the Parque do Flamengo with a stunning view of Pão de Açúcar, this is an excellent *churrascaria*.

Centro

It's worth lunching in Centro, where you can rub elbows with Rio's workaday crowds and take advantage of weekday specials, offered at even the toniest restaurants. An area worth exploring is Travessa do Comércio, just after work when the restaurants and cafés fill with chatter. The cafés and restaurants around Praça Floriano are also popular gathering/quaffing spots.

BUDGET & MIDRANGE

Confeitaria Colombo (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2232 2300; Rua Gonçalves Dias 34, Centro; desserts R\$4-8; ☎ 8am-8pm

Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) Stained-glass windows, brocaded mirrors and marble countertops create one of the most lavish settings for coffee or a meal.

Bistro do Paço (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2262 3613; Praça XV de Novembro 48; mains R\$10-17; ☎ lunch Mon-Sat) Inside the Paço Imperial, this airy lunchtime spot serves fresh salads, tasty sandwiches and piping hot quiches, with decent vegetarian options. A more formal restaurant lies inside the same building.

Casa Cavé (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2222 2358; Rua Sete de Setembro 137; mains R\$10-20; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) This simple but historic coffeehouse has a few stand-up tables and a long counter full of tasty desserts.

Café do Rodrigues (Map pp144-5; ☎ 3231 8015; Travessa do Ouvidor 17, Centro; mains R\$12-20; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Fri) Inside the quaint bookstore Livraria da Travessa, Café do Rodrigues serves lighter fare such as *torta do palmito* (heart of palm quiche), soups and flavorful salads.

Cedro do Líbano (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2224 0163; Rua Senhor dos Passos 231; mains R\$14-22; ☎ 11am-5pm) Along a bustling pedestrian strip, this 70-year-old institution serves traditional Lebanese cooking: *quibes*, *kaftas*, lamb – tender portions of perfection.

Al Khayam (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 6261; www.alkhayam.com.br; Rua do Ouvidor 16; mains R\$16-24; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri) Al Khayam has modern decor and serves up excellent Middle Eastern cuisine. Hookahs and fortnightly belly dance shows add spice to the ample menu.

Ateliê Odeon (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2240 0746; Praça Floriano, Cinelândia; mains R\$16-26; ☎ noon-10pm Mon-Fri) Next to the cinema of the same name, the new Ateliê Odeon serves up decent Brazilian fare to a festive crowd on its open-air terrace. On weekends, Ateliê opens around film screenings next door.

Bar Luiz (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2262 6900; Rua da Carioca 39, Centro; mains R\$18-30; ☎ 11am-11:30pm Mon-Sat) A festive air fills this old saloon (opened in 1887), where you can get your fill of traditional German cooking – potato salad and smoked meats – along with ice-cold drafts.

Tempêh (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2232 8007; 2nd fl, Rua Primeiro de Março 24; per kg R\$22; ☎ lunch Mon-Sat) One of Centro's best vegetarian restaurants, Tempêh has a wide assortment of nicely prepared dishes, including soups, pastas, veggie burgers, vegan sushi and desserts. The old colonial walls add to the charm.

Brasserie Rosário (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2518 3033; Rua do Rosário 34, Centro; lunch specials R\$23; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) Set in a handsomely restored 1860s building, this atmospheric bistro has a hint of Paris. Croissants, *pain au chocolat* (chocolate croissant) and other bakery items fill the front counters, while the restaurant menu features roast meats and fish, soups, baguette sandwiches and the like.

Arte Temperada (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2253 2589; Rua Visconde de Itaboraí 78, Centro; mains R\$24-36; ☎ lunch Mon-Fri) Hidden in a tiny alley behind the Casa França-Brasil, this charming restaurant serves delicious Franco-Brazilian cuisine. Top choices are crepes, bouillabaisse, and the chicken breast served with passion-fruit sauce and polenta.

TOP END

Cais do Oriente (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2203 0178; Rua Visconde de Itaboraí 8, Centro; mains R\$33-46; ☎ lunch daily, dinner Tue-Sat) Brick walls lined with tapestries stretch high to the ceiling in this almost cinematic 1870s mansion. Set on a brick-lined street hidden from the masses, Cais do Centro blends West with East in dishes such as filet steak and sesame tuna.

AlbaMar (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2240 8378; Praça Marechal Âncora 186; mains for two R\$50-120; ☎ lunch & dinner) Perched over the water, this old favorite offers excellent views of the Baía de Guanabara and Niterói and serves up tasty seafood dishes. Favorites include shrimp curry.

Santa Teresa & Lapa

Santa Teresa has superb views, while Lapa has an unrivaled music scene, and both are excellent places to discover a mix of new and old-fashioned eating and drinking haunts.

BUDGET

Marizé Gourmet (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 0919; Av Mem de Sá 82, Lapa; sandwiches R\$5-12; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon, to 11pm Tue & Wed, to 3am Thu & Fri, 8pm-3am Sat) This airy two-story restaurant is ideally suited to samba-club-goers in the area. It has big windows from which to watch the street action, and tasty salads, sandwiches and bar snacks. There's live music Thursday to Saturday (R\$10 admission).

Jasmin Mango (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 2605; Largo do Guimarães 143, Santa Teresa; mains R\$10-21; ☎ 10am-11pm) Well-placed beside the *bonde* stop, Jasmin Mango is a charming spot to linger over sandwiches, quiches, pastas, pizzas and desserts. There's an airy patio in back.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Encontras Cariocas (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 0028; Av Mem de Sá 77, Lapa; pizzas R\$14-35; 🕒 6pm-5am Wed-Sun) This late-night pizza parlor is a good place to stop in while exploring Lapa's music scene. You'll find 24 pizza varieties amid old-fashioned charm – high wooden ceilings, brick walls and warm lighting.

Sobrenatural (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2224 1003; Rua Almirante Alexandrino 432, Santa Teresa; mains R\$16-36; 🕒 noon-midnight Mon-Sat) The exposed brick and old hardwood ceiling set the stage for feasting on the *frutos do mar* (seafood). Lines gather on weekends for grilled fish and *moqueca*. During the week, stop by for lunchtime specials.

Bar do Mineiro (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 9227; Rua Paschoal Carlos Magno 99, Santa Teresa; mains R\$18-30; 🕒 11am-2am Tue-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat, to 8pm Sun) Photographs of old Rio cover the walls of this old-school *boteco* in the heart of Santa Teresa. The *feijoada* is tops on Saturday. Good anytime dishes include *carne seca* and *linguiça* (garlicky pork sausages) along with strong *caipirinhas*.

Bar Brasil (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2509 5943; Av Mem de Sá 90, Lapa; mains R\$18-40; 🕒 11:30am-11pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) This restaurant serves traditional German cuisine: sauerkraut, wursts, lentils, and an ever-flowing tap quench the appetites of the sometimes-rowdy Lapa crowd.

Nova Capela (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 6228; Av Mem de Sá 96, Lapa; mains R\$18-40; 🕒 11am-late) Like Bar Brasil next door, Nova Capela stays open late into the night, and fills with a garrulous mix of neighborhood regulars, party kids and assorted characters who stumble in off the street. Legendarily bad-tempered waiters (no surprise given what they have to work with) serve up big plates of traditional Portuguese cuisine. *Cabrito* (goat) is very popular.

Espírito Santa (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2508 7095; Rua Almirante Alexandrino 264, Santa Teresa; mains R\$20-36; 🕒 noon-6pm Tue-Wed, to midnight Thu-Sat, to 7pm Sun) Espírito Santa is set in a beautifully restored mansion in Santa Teresa, with sweeping views from its back patio. The cuisine is no less amazing: The chef expertly prepares rich meat and seafood dishes from the Amazon.

Sansushi (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2224 4658; Rua Almirante Alexandrino 382, Santa Teresa; sushi platter R\$46; 🕒 7pm-midnight Tue-Fri, 1pm-midnight Sat, to 8pm Sun) This tiny sushi spot on Santa Teresa's main strip attracts a loyal local following with its delectable sushi and sashimi (36 different varieties) as well as teriyaki and other hot dishes.

our pick **Aprazível** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 3852 4935; Rua Aprazível 62, Santa Teresa; mains R\$53; 🕒 noon-1am Thu-Sat, 1-7:30pm Sun) Hidden on a windy road high up in Santa Teresa, Aprazível has beautiful views and a lush garden setting. The menu features gourmet Brazilian fare: grilled fish with orange chutney and coconut rice, mixed mushroom lasagne and roast beef with onion torte. Thursday night is dedicated to live *chorinho* (R\$15 cover). Reservations are recommended.

Barra & Greater Rio

Outside the city limits one can find fresh seafood in open-air spots overlooking the coast.

Bira (Map p137; ☎ 2410 8304; Estrada da Vendinha 68A, Barra de Guaratiba; mains for two R\$80-125; 🕒 noon-6pm Thu & Fri, noon-8pm Sat & Sun) Splendid views of Restinga de Marambaia await diners who make the trek to Bira, about 45 minutes outside of the city. On a breezy, wooden deck, you can feast on *moquecas*, sea bass, shrimp and crabmeat pastries.

Tia Palmira (Map p137; ☎ 2410 8169; Caminho do Souza 18, Barra de Guaratiba; set lunch R\$60; 🕒 11:30am-5pm Tue-Sun) A venerable destination for 40 years, Tia Palmira wins fans with its seafood *rodízio*. Plate after plate of *vatapá* (a seafood dish with a thick sauce of manioc paste, coconut and *dendê* or palm oil), crabmeat, grilled fish, shrimp pastries and other fruits of the sea come to your table until you can eat no more.

DRINKING

Leblon and Ipanema offer flashy nightspots, as well as old-school watering holes. A youthful bar scene draws revelers to Gávea, while a more sedate crowd enjoys Lagoa's scenic spots. Centro's narrow pedestrian streets attract drinkers during weekday cocktail hours, while a mix of old and new clutters the streets of Lapa and Santa Teresa.

Ipanema & Leblon

Academia da Cachaça (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2239 1542; Rua Conde de Bernadotte 266, Leblon; 🕒 noon-2am Mon-Sat, to 1am Sun) Although *cachaça* has a bad reputation in some parts, here the fiery liquor is given the respect it nearly deserves. This pleasant spot serves over 500 varieties.

Botequim Informal (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2259 6967; Rua Humberto de Campos 646, Leblon; 🕒 noon-1am Tue-Sun) This charming neighborhood bar with outdoor seating is hidden away on a quiet, tree-lined street and makes a fine place to start the evening.

TICKET MATTERS

When entering some bars (and self-serve restaurants) you might be handed a ticket, which is used to track your consumption throughout the evening. When you're ready to move on, you'll pay a cashier for the goods (and possibly an admission fee). The cashier will then give you another ticket to pass onto the door attendant as you exit. It's all wonderfully Brezhnevian – but saves you the trouble of having to cough up every time you order a cocktail. Don't lose that ticket, as you may be charged R\$100 or more. You'll see this system in many areas of Brazil.

Bar D'Hotel (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 4990; 2nd fl, Marina All Suites, Av Delfim Moreira 696, Leblon; 🕒 7pm-1am Sun-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat) The waves crashing on the shore are part of the ambience at this bar overlooking Ipanema Beach. The intimate space is a magnet for the style set.

Bracarene (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2294 3549; Rua José Linhares 85B, Leblon; 🕒 7am-midnight Mon-Sat & 9am-9pm Sun) Cariocas consider Bracarene one of Rio's classic *botecos*, for its unpretentious atmosphere, garrulous mixed crowd, ice-cold *chope* and heavenly *salgados* (snacks). It gets packed on weekends.

Cobal de Leblon (Map pp138-9; Rua Gilberto Cardoso, Leblon; 🕒 closed Mon) Leblon's popular market features a number of open-air bars and restaurants, and it's a major see-and-be-seen destination in the summer.

Devassa (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 6087; Av General San Martín 1241, Leblon; 🕒 5pm-late Mon-Fri, noon-late Sat & Sun) Serving Rio's best beer, Devassa makes its own creamy brews (in Vargem Grande), before offering them up to thirsty, festive crowds at the two-story *chopperia* (beer hall). Weekend bands playing upstairs add to the din.

Empório (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2267 7992; Rua Maria Quitéria 37, Ipanema; 🕒 noon-2am) A young mix of Cariocas and gringos stirs things up over cheap cocktails and blaring music at this battered Ipanema favorite.

Garota de Ipanema (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2523 3787; Rua Vinícius de Moraes 49, Ipanema; 🕒 10:30-2:30am) The famed spot where Tom Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes wrote 'A Garota de Ipanema' (The Girl from Ipanema) is now pretty touristy, but the beer is ice-cold and the crowd is lively.

Guapo Loco (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2294 2915; Rua Rainha Guilhermina 48, Leblon; cover R\$10-40, mains R\$15-30; 🕒 7pm-midnight Mon, to 4am Tue-Fri, noon-4am Sat, to midnight Sun) This colorful Mexican restaurant and bar is one of Leblon's liveliest spots for the under-30 crowd. It offers a variety of tequilas to keep things rowdy. Filling quesadillas, tacos and fajitas are also available if hunger strikes after working the dance floor.

Jobi (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2274 0547; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1166, Leblon; 🕒 9am-4am) A favorite since 1956, Jobi is one of Leblon's most traditional drinking spots. Grab a seat by the sidewalk, order a cold beverage and watch the night unfold.

Seu Martin (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2274 0800; Av General San Martín 1196, Leblon; 🕒 noon-1am Tue-Sat, noon-11pm Sun) This small, inviting bar in Leblon is an intimate setting for a drink. Jazz plays overhead as young friends and couples work their way through cocktails and conversation. Seu Martin also serves tasty appetizers and sandwiches.

Shenanigan's (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2267 5860; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 112A, Ipanema; 🕒 6pm-3am Mon-Fri, 2pm-3am Sat, to 2am Sun) Overlooking the Praça General Osório, Shenanigan's is one of many Irish pubs in town that continues to draw a young mix of locals and pale out-of-towners over games of pool. Dark, festive and pubby ambience.

Tô Nem Ai (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 8403; Rua Farma de Amoedo 57, Ipanema; 🕒 noon-3am) A popular new watering hole that attracts a fun, very mixed crowd to its indoor and outdoor tables. Excellent appetizers and light fare.

Gávea, Jardim Botânico & Lagoa

Bar Lagoa (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2523 1135; Av Epitácio Pessoa 1674, Lagoa; 🕒 6pm-2am Mon, noon-2am Tue-Sun) Overlooking the lake, Bar Lagoa is one of the neighborhood's classic haunts. A youthful air pervades the ever-crowded tables.

Caroline Café (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 0705; Rua JJ Seabra 10, Jardim Botânico; 🕒 6pm-3am Sun-Thu, to 4am Fri, 7pm-4am Sat) The usual sexy, young crowd fills the tables at this sceney indoor-outdoor spot.

Da Graça (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2249 5484; Rua Pacheco Leão 780, Jardim Botânico; 🕒 6pm-1:30am Tue-Thu, noon-1:30am Fri & Sat) Colorful Da Graça is one of Jardim Botânico's liveliest bars, with a festive and colorfully kitsch decor and sidewalk tables packed on weekends.

Drink Café (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2239 4136; Parque dos Patins, Av Borges de Medeiros, Lagoa; live-music charge R\$5; ☎ 5pm-2am Mon, 9am-2am Tue-Sun) One of several, open-air restaurants along the lake, the Drink Café hosts live jazz and bossa nova most nights.

Hipódromo Up (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2274 9720; Praça Santos Dumont 108, Gávea; ☎ 8pm-3am) Hipódromo Up is one of several bars in the area responsible for the local residents' chronic lack of sleep. A young college-age crowd celebrates here most nights.

Saturnino (Map pp138-9; ☎ 3874 0064; Rua Saturnino de Brito 50, Jardim Botânico; ☎ 6pm-2am Sun-Wed, to 3am Thu-Sat) Saturnino has high ceilings and touches of tropical decor, with a 20-something crowd mingling over fruity cocktails (that could use a touch more alcohol).

Copacabana & Leme

Bar Luiz (Map pp140-1; Kiosk 10, Av Atlântica, Copacabana; ☎ 8am-midnight) One of many shiny, new kiosks on Copacabana's sands, serving up cold beer and tasty bites (the kitchen is concealed underground).

Copacabana Palace Poolside Bar (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2548 7070; Copacabana Palace hotel, Av Atlântica 1702, Copacabana; ☎ noon-11pm) Even if you can't swing the pricey rooms, you can still soak up some decadence at the Palace's lovely outdoor terrace bar. For something less open, head inside to the elegant piano bar (4pm to midnight).

Manoel & Joaquim (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2523 1128; Av Atlântica 3806, Copacabana; ☎ noon-2am) Facing the beach, this outdoor spot is a longstanding favorite, attracting a garrulous mix of locals and tourists.

Sindicato do Chopp (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2541 3133; Av Atlântica 514, Leme; ☎ 11am-3am) With a peaceful beachfront location, this casual bar is a relaxing and largely local spot to enjoy a draft or a filling meal.

Botafogo & Urca

Aurora (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2539 4756; Rua Capitão Salomão 43, Botafogo; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat, to 9pm Sun) This classic *boteco* is 100% Carioca. A comfortable, roomy bar with a lively, talkative crowd spilling onto the sidewalk tables.

Bar Urca (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2295 8744; Rua Cândido Gaffré 205, Urca; ☎ 6am-10pm Tue-Sat, to 7pm Sun) This simple neighborhood bar and restaurant is in a marvelous setting near the waterfront. At night patrons take a seat along the seaside wall as waiters bring cold drinks and appetizers.

Miam Miam (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2244 0125; Rua General Góes Monteiro 34, Botafogo; ☎ noon-3pm Tue-Fri, 8pm-1am Tue-Sat) A cozy new edition to Botafogo's drinking scene, this bar and bistro has a nicely lit lounge with exposed brick walls and modish furniture and a Brazilian electronic soundtrack. Cocktails and Italian fare (bruschetta, pastas, panini) fill the menu.

Centro

Amarelinho (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2240 8434; Praça Floriano 55, Cinelândia; ☎ 11am until last customer) Facing Praça Floriano, Amerilinho packs its outdoor tables during that oh-so-refreshing after-work drink.

Bar Occidental (Map pp144-5; Rua Miguel Couto 124, Centro; ☎ 5-10pm Mon-Fri) One of several sidewalk bars in the area, Bar Occidental is the place to go for icy *chope* and fried sardines.

Boteco Casual (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2232 0250; Rua do Ouvidor; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Fri; 11am-6pm Sat) Boteco Casual serves ice-cold beer and filling plates to its sidewalk tables; it gets packed after work, particularly as the weekend nears. Numerous other open-air spots lie nearby.

Santa Teresa & Lapa

Café Neves (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 4863; Largo das Neves 11, Santa Teresa; ☎ 6pm-late Tue-Sat) Small but charming, Café Neves faces peaceful Largo das Neves, with the occasional tram rattling by. The open-sided bar draws a vibrant mix on weekends, and there's often live music somewhere on hand. Several other bars lie around the square.

Tumbao de Malevo (Map pp144-5; Rua Paschoal Carlos Magno 121, Santa Teresa; ☎ 4-10pm Thu-Sun) High up above the street, this casual, open-air café attracts an eclectic neighborhood crowd. In addition to beer and cocktails, Tumbao serves sandwiches and other light bites. Live music some nights.

Santa Arte (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 9366; Rua Paschoal Carlos Magno 103B, Santa Teresa; ☎ 7pm-midnight) A casual, dimly lit spot to hear live music nightly among neighborhood regulars. Santa Arte is at its liveliest on weekends.

Mike's Haus (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2509 5248; Rua Almirante Alexandrino 1458A, Santa Teresa; ☎ noon-midnight Tue-Sun) This German-style pub attracts a mix of expats and Cariocas on weekend nights and serves frothy German beers and filling pub grub. It's a bit off the beaten path, so plan on sticking around before moving on.

ENTERTAINMENT Music & Dancing

Rio's music scene features some incredibly talented performers playing in atmospheric settings to a truly democratic crowd. Lapa is the heart of samba, and its old clubs are a must-see for visitors. The widest assortment of music venues is along Av Mem de Sá. In the summer, the city hosts its Noites Cariocas, big parties atop Pão de Açúcar that feature the likes of Caetano Veloso, Jorge Ben Jor and other big names.

LIVE MUSIC

Allegro Bistrô Musical (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2548 5005; www.modernsound.com.br; Modern Sound, Rua Barata Ribeiro 502, Copacabana; admission free; ☎ 9am-9pm Mon-Fri, to 8pm Sat) The small café in Copacabana's excellent music store, Modern Sound, features live music most nights of the week, typically from 5pm to 9pm.

Beco do Rato (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 8062; Rua Moraes e Vale 5, Lapa; admission free; ☎ 7pm-2am Tue-Sun) One of Lapa's classic samba spots, this small outdoor bar has excellent live groups playing to a laid-back crowd. Friday nights are particularly recommended.

Bip Bip (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2267 9696; Rua Almirante Gonçalves 50, Copacabana; ☎ 8pm-midnight) A neighborhood institution, Bip Bip has been hosting samba jams for more than 15 years. The ambience is simple: just a breadbox-sized storefront with tables spilling onto the sidewalk, great music and a diverse crowd of music lovers. Sunday is the current fave.

Circo Voador (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2533 5873; www.circovoador.com.br in Portuguese; Rua dos Arcos, Lapa; admission R\$20-40) In a curvilinear building behind the Arcos do Lapa, this concert space hosts big names like Chico Buarque and Jorge Ben Jor as well as up-and-coming bands playing rock, ska, funk and samba.

Clan Café (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2558 2322; Rua Cosme Velho 564, Cosme Velho; admission R\$10-15; ☎ 6pm-2am Tue-Sat) Set against the hillside of Corcovado, Clan Café has a large open-air patio that makes a great spot for live jazz, bossa nova and Música Popular Brasileira. Bands play around 9pm.

Estrela da Lapa (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2507 6686; Av Mem de Sá 69, Lapa; admission R\$10-20; ☎ 7pm-1am Mon, 9pm-2am Tue-Sun) Inside a restored 19th-century mansion, Estrela da Lapa has an eclectic music scene and hosts bands playing *choro*, blues and hip-hop. On weekends, shows are

followed by a DJ who keeps the dance floor going until late.

Estudantina Café (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2232 1149; Praça Tiradentes 79, Centro; admission R\$12-20; ☎ 10pm-3:30am Wed-Sat) Overlooking the Praça Tiradentes, the old dance hall packs in crowds who come for a line-up of samba, rock, soul and *fórró* (popular Northeastern music). The open-air veranda provides a nice spot to cool off.

Fundição Progresso (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2220 5070; www.fundicao.org in Portuguese; Rua dos Arcos 24, Lapa; admission R\$20-35) Inside this enormous old factory are several stages that host some of the best concerts and arts events in Lapa. Check the website for the latest line-up.

Praia Vermelha (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2275 7292; Praça General Tibúrcio, Urca; admission R\$6-10; ☎ noon-midnight) Perched over the beach of the same name, Praia Vermelha has gorgeous views of Pão de Açúcar looming overhead. By night, jazzy MPB bands play from 6pm onward, making for an enviable open-air setting. The food, unfortunately, is less spectacular.

Semente (Map pp144-5; ☎ 9781 2451; Rua Joaquim Silva 138, Lapa; admission R\$10; ☎ 8pm-1am Sun-Thu) This tiny bar hosts up-and-coming samba and *choro* groups and is a more authentic space to find samba's soul. Sunday and Monday nights are current picks.

Severyna (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2556 1296; Rua Ipiranga 54, Laranjeiras; admission R\$5-10; ☎ 11:30am-2am) At night this barnlike dining hall hosts live bands playing *fórró* and other music from Northeastern Brazil. Shows begin at 8:30pm.

Vinícius Piano Bar (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2523 4757; Rua Prudente de Moraes 34, Ipanema; admission R\$10-30) Billing itself as the 'temple of bossa nova,' Vinícius Piano Bar has been an icon in the neighborhood since the late '80s. The small, intimate upstairs music space hosts a fine assortment of jazz and bossa nova groups.

SAMBA CLUBS

Gafieiras (dance halls) are a big attraction in Lapa. Here you'll find restored colonial buildings hiding dance floors and large samba bands – along with their many admirers.

Carioca da Gema (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 0043; Av Mem de Sá 79, Lapa; admission R\$10-20; ☎ closed Sun & Mon) One of the first to bring samba back to Lapa, this small, colorful club hosts an excellent line-up of bands and a good mixed crowd that packs the dance floor most nights.

Centro Cultural Carioca (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 9642; www.centroculturalcarioca.com.br; Rua do Teatro 37, Centro; admission R\$16; 🕒 7pm-1am Mon-Thu 8:30pm-2am Fri & Sat) This restored theater, on Praça Tiradentes, books top samba groups throughout the year, and it's a historic setting in which to hear – and dance to – live music.

Democráticos (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 4611; Rua do Riachuelo 91, Lapa; admission R\$12-24; 🕒 10pm-4am Wed, 11pm-4am Thu-Sat, 8pm-midnight Sun) This spacious, 19th-century dance hall has an enormous dance floor and a long stage, covered with musicians. For an authentic slice of Rio's old-fashioned love of samba, Democráticos is hard to beat.

Rio Scenarium (Map pp144-5; ☎ 3147 9005; Rua do Lavradio 20, Lapa; admission R\$15-25; ☎ 7pm-2:30am Tue-Sat) Perhaps Rio's most beautiful night-spot, Rio Scenarium has three antique-filled floors with balconies overlooking the stage on the 1st floor. Talented samba bands play to a dance-happy crowd, about half of whom are tourists.

SAMBA SCHOOLS

Starting in September, in preparation for Carnival, most big samba schools open their rehearsals to the public. These are large dance parties, and provide a good chance to mingle with Cariocas. Schools typically charge R\$5 to R\$15 at the door. Many samba schools are in the *favelas*, so use common sense when going.

You can visit the samba schools on a tour or you can go by yourself: you can catch a taxi there, and there are always cabs outside the schools waiting to take people home. It's a good idea to confirm that the rehearsals are on before heading out. Following is a list of some of the more popular samba schools, rehearsal days and contact information. The most popular schools for tourists are Mangueira and Salgueiro.

Beija-Flor (☎ 2791 2866; www.beija-flor.com.br in Portuguese; Praça Inha Wallace Paes Leme 1025, Nilópolis; 🕒 8pm Thu)

Caprichosos de Pilares (☎ 2592 5620; www.caprichosos.com.br; Rua Faleiros 1, Pilares; 🕒 10pm Sat)

Grande Rio (☎ 2775 8422; www.granderio.org.br in Portuguese; Rua Almirante Barroso 5-6, Duque de Caixas; 🕒 11pm Fri)

Imperatriz Leopoldinense (☎ 2560 8037; www.imperatrizleopoldinense.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Professor Lacé 235, Ramos; 🕒 7pm Sun)

Mangueira (☎ 2567 4637; www.mangueira.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Visconde de Niterói 1072, Mangueira; 🕒 10pm Sat)

Mocidade Independente de Padre Miguel (☎ 3332 5823; Rua Coronel Tamarindo 38, Padre Miguel; 🕒 10pm Sat)

Porto da Pedra (☎ 3707 1518; www.gresportoda.pedra.com.br in Portuguese; Av Lúcio Tomé Feteiro 290, São Gonçalo; 🕒 10pm Fri)

Portela (☎ 2489 6440; www.gresportela.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Clara Nunes 81, Madureira; 🕒 10pm Fri)

Rocinha (☎ 3205 3303; www.academicosdarocinha.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Bertha Lutz 80, São Conrado; 🕒 10pm Sat)

Salgueiro (☎ 2238 5564; www.salgueiro.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Silva Teles 104, Andaraí; 🕒 10pm Sat)

Tradição (☎ 3350 5668; Estrada Intendente Magalhães 160, Campinho; 🕒 10pm Fri)

Unidos da Tijuca (☎ 2516 4053; www.unidosdatijuca.com.br in Portuguese; Clube dos Portuários, Rua Francisco Bicalho 47, Cidade Nova; 🕒 11pm Sat)

Viradouro (☎ 2628 7840; Av do Contorno 16, Barreto, Niterói; 🕒 10pm Sat)

NIGHTCLUBS

Flyers advertising dance parties and raves (pronounced 'hah-vees') can be found in record stores and clothing shops in Ipanema and Leblon, and in the surf shops in Galeria River shopping center, near Praia de Arpoador. Some clubs give a discount if you've got a flyer.

Melt (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2249 9309; Rua Rita Ludolf 47A, Leblon; admission R\$10-30; 🕒 10pm-3am) The sinewy Melt club is one of those places that couldn't possibly be anywhere but Leblon. Models and their admirers lie draped around the candlelit lounge, while wait staff glide between the tables delivering colorful cocktails. Upstairs, DJs break beats over the dance floor, occasionally accompanied by a few percussionists.

00 (Zero Zero; Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 8041; Planetário, Av Padre Leonel Franca 240, Gávea; admission R\$20-30; 🕒 10pm-4am Thu-Sun) Housed in Gávea's planetarium, 00 (Zero Zero) is a restaurant by day, sleek lounge by night. With an outdoor patio and some of Rio's best DJs, 00 has a solid reputation in the fashion-literate party crowd.

Baronneti (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2522 1460; Rua Barão da Torre 354, Ipanema; admission R\$5-15; 🕒 11pm-5am Tue-Sun) One of Ipanema's only nightclubs, Baronneti has a sleek and trim interior with two dance floors. Given its prime Zona Sul location, you'll find a young, well-heeled crowd

here. Eclectic DJs and fruity cocktails keep the fans returning.

Bombar (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2249 2161; Av General San Martín 1011, Leblon; admission R\$10-30; 🕒 10pm-4am Mon-Sat) This popular Leblon nightclub attracts a festive, neighborhood crowd to fill the upstairs dance floor. Downstairs is a bar, for mingling among a mostly Zona Sul crowd.

Casa da Matriz (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2266 1014; www.casadamatriz.com.br in Portuguese; Rua Henrique de Novaes 107, Botafogo; admission R\$10-25; 🕒 11pm-4am Mon-Sat, 8pm-2am Sun) Artwork decorates the walls of this avant-garde space in Botafogo. With numerous little rooms to explore – lounge, screening room, dance floors – this old two-story mansion embodies the most creative side of the Carioca spirit. Check the website for party listings.

GAY & LESBIAN RIO *Dan Littauer*

Rio has been a major destination for gays since the beginning of the 20th century. Gay balls date as far back as the 1930s, and Carnival celebrations have long given gays a chance to dress up, dance and mingle. Nowadays the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) scene, especially for visitors, is in Ipanema, with Rua Farme de Amoedo, and the beachfront intersecting it, at center stage. Keep in mind that the Carioca definition and idea of a 'gay friendly' area is very different from, say, the Castro or the Marais, where there are clearly demarcated areas for GLBT businesses. Rainbow flags are still a rarity in Rio, and people prefer mixing to exclusivity.

Bar Bofetada (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2227 1675; Rua Farme de Amoedo 87A, Ipanema; 🕒 8am-2am) Frequented by gay guys enjoying a beer after the beach, Bofetada is a good place to watch the boys catwalking up and down Rua Farme de Amoedo.

Cabaret Casanova (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2221 6555; Av Mem de Sá 25, Lapa; 🕒 11pm-4am Fri & Sat) One of Rio's oldest clubs, Casanova features a good mixed crowd, drag queens and slightly trashy music.

Casa da Lua (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 4652; Rua Barão da Torre 240A, Ipanema; 🕒 5pm-2am Tue-Sun) One of Rio's only lesbian hangouts, Casa da Lua is in a leafy part of Ipanema and serves great drinks.

Cine Ideal (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2252 3460; www.cineideal.com.br in Portuguese; Rua da Carioca 62, Centro; 🕒 Fri & Sat) An old movie theater, and now an electronic music club, Ideal has an outdoor terrace with views of old Rio.

Dama de Ferro (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 2330; Rua Vinício de Moraes 288, Ipanema; admission R\$12-25; 🕒 11pm-8am Thu-Sat) Dama de Ferro has one of the best dance floors in town. A fun, mixed crowd packs this place in the late hours (around 4am) on weekend nights.

Galeria Café (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2523 8250; www.galeriacafe.com.br; Rua Teixeira de Melo 31, Ipanema; 🕒 Thu-Sat) This bar has lovely decor and a very mixed crowd.

Le Boy (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2513 4993; Rua Raul Pompéia 102, Copacabana; admission R\$12-25; 🕒 11pm-4am Tue-Sun) Trannies and pretty boys gather at this festive Copacabana dance club for dancing, drinking and perhaps debauchery. Super popular, Le Boy shouldn't be missed.

La Girl (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2247 8342; Rua Raul Pompéia 102, Copacabana; admission R\$12-25; 🕒 11pm-2am Tue-Sun) Rio's best-known girl bar, La Girl is a great party scene for lesbians. It's run by the owner of Le Boy.

Buraco da Lacreia (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2242 0446; Rua André Cavalcante 58, Lapa; 🕒 Thu-Sat) This wicked place has entertained for over 12 years. You'll find glamorous and trashy visitors, bizarre drag shows, karaoke, a dark room and other attractions.

Classical Music, Theater & Dance

The city's most lavish setting for a performance is the beaux-arts **Theatro Municipal** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2299 1711; www.theatromunicipal.rj.gov.br in Portuguese; Rua Manuel de Carvalho, Centro). You'll find a more exciting repertoire of modern dance, theater and performance art at the excellent **Espaço Sesc** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2547 0156; Rua Domingos Ferreira, Copacabana).

Cinemas

One of Latin America's film centers, Rio remains remarkably open to foreign and independent films, documentaries and avant-garde cinema. For listings and show times pick up *O Globo*, *Jornal do Brasil* newspapers or *Veja Rio* magazine.

Casa França-Brasil (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2253 5366; www.casafrancabrasil.rj.gov.br; Rua Visconde de Itaboraí, Centro)

Cineclube Laura Alvim (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2267 1647; Av Vieira Souto 176, Ipanema) Set in the charming Laura Alvim cultural center.

Espaço Unibanco de Cinema (Map pp142-3; ☎ 3221 9221; Rua Voluntários da Pátria 35, Botafogo) A café and used bookshop are also inside.

Estação Ipanema (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 6445; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 605, Ipanema)

Estação Paço (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2529 4829; Paço Imperial, Centro) Set in the historic Paço Imperial.

Odeon BR (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2262 5089; Praça Mahatma Gandhi 5, Cinelândia) Rio's landmark cinema is a beautiful old theater.

São Luiz (Map pp142-3; ☎ 3221 9292; Rua do Catete 307, Catete)

Spectator Sports

FOOTBALL

Maracanã Football Stadium (Map pp146-7; ☎ 2568 9962; Rua Professor Eurico Rabelo, São Cristóvão; admission R\$12-30) Nearly every child in Brazil dreams of playing in Maracanã, Rio's enormous shrine to football. Matches here rate among the most exciting in the world, and the behavior of the fans is no less colorful. The devoted pound huge samba drums as their team takes the field, and if things are going badly – or even very well – fans are sometimes driven to sheer madness. Some detonate smoke bombs in team colors, while others launch beer bottles, or cups full of urine or dead chickens into the seats below. As well, enormous flags are spread across large sections of the stadium's bleachers, while people dance in the aisles (this has been known to inspire a goal or two).

Games take place year round and can happen any day of the week. Rio's big four clubs are Flamengo, Fluminense, Vasco da Gama and Botafogo. Although many buses run to the stadium, the metro is safer and less crowded on game days. Keep in mind that the safest seats are on the lower level *cadeiras* (chairs), where the overhead covering protects you from descending objects. After the game, avoid the crowded buses, and go instead by metro or taxi.

To see some of Rio's favorite teams in action, go to their home stadiums:

Botafogo (☎ 2611 2656; Estádio Caio Martins, Rua Presidente Backer, Niterói)

Flamengo (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2529 0100; Estádio José Bastos Padilha, Av Borges de Medeiros 997, Lagoa) This stadium is also known as Estádio da Gávea. Most of Flamengo's home games are, however, played at Maracanã.

Fluminense (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2553 7240; Estádio Laranjeiras, Rua Álvaro Chaves, Laranjeiras)

Vasco da Gama (☎ 2580 7373; Estádio de São Januário, Rua General Almérico de Moura 131, São Cristóvão)

HORSE RACING

Jockey Club Brasileiro (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 9988; www.jcb.com.br in Portuguese; Jardim Botânico 1003, Gávea) The Jockey Club seats 35,000 and lies on the Gávea side of the Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas opposite Praça Santos Dumont. It's a beautiful track, with a great view of the mountains and Corcovado, and a nice bar and restaurant overlooking the track. Races are held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Monday and Friday nights. The big event of the year is the Brazilian Grand Prix, which falls on the first Sunday in August.

SHOPPING

Rio has much in the way of shopping, from colorful markets to eye-catching Zona Sul boutiques. Some of the major strips in the city for outdoor shopping include the following: **Av Ataulfo de Paiva, Leblon** (Map pp138-9) Boutiques selling haute couture sprinkled among cafés, bookshops and restaurants.

Rua Visconde de Pirajá, Ipanema (Map pp138-9) Ipanema's vibrant shopping strip.

Rua do Lavradio, Lapa (Map pp144-5) Rows of antique stores.

Clothing & Spirits

Contemporâneo (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2287 6204; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 437, Ipanema; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Sat) A stylish boutique selling unique pieces, Contemporâneo is a good place to see Brazil's best designers. Café attached.

Forum (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2521 7415; www.forum.com.br; Rua Barão da Torre 422, Ipanema; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) Much vaunted Brazilian designer Tufi Duek has set up his flagship store on a peaceful, tree-lined street. You'll find elegant, beautifully made pieces from his men's and women's collections.

Gilson Martins (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2227 6178; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 462, Ipanema; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat) Designer Gilson Martins turns the Brazilian flag into a fashion statement in this colorful store. Glossy handbags, wallets and other accessories sport the green and yellow.

Ipanema.com (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2227 1288; Rua Prudente de Moraes 237C, Ipanema; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat) Ipanema.com carries colorful

men's T-shirts, sneakers, and denim: A good spot if you need a new look in a hurry.

Isabela Capeto (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2540 5232; Rua Dias Ferreira 45B, Leblon; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat) Brazilian designer Isabela Capeto sells her beautifully handmade pieces for women from this cheerful Leblon boutique.

!La Cucaracha! (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2522 0103; Rua Teixeira de Melo 31H, Ipanema) This small, curious Ipanema store sells T-shirts, zines, comics, some CDs and various tchotchkes.

Osklen (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2227 2911; Rua Maria Quitéria 85, Ipanema; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) One of Brazil's hottest labels, Osklen has an excellent selection of men's and women's beachwear, outerwear, shirts, skirts and shoes.

Handicrafts & Artwork

In addition to shops listed below, good places to browse include the handicrafts shop at the Museu do Índio (p149; featuring works made by indigenous artists) and the colorful contemporary design store at the Museu de Arte Moderna (p150).

La Vereda (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2222 1848; Rua Almirante Alexandrino 428, Santa Teresa) Brazilian handicrafts as well as work from local artists and artisans are featured here. Several other handicraft shops are nearby.

Empório Brasil (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 3365; Store 108, Rua Visconde de Pirajá 595, Ipanema; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat) Hidden in the back of a small shopping center, Empório Brasil sells jewelry, vases, instruments, baskets and other unique handicrafts.

No Meio do Caminho (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2294 1330; Av General San Martín 1247, Leblon; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) Showcasing the work of Brazilian artisans, No Meio do Caminho has two floors full of pottery, vases, ceramics and woodwork. Pieces here are more akin to artwork and priced accordingly. Located in Leblon, No Meio do Caminho will ship anywhere.

O Sol (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2294 5099; Rua Corcovado 213, Jardim Botânico; ☎ closed Sun) Run by a nonprofit organization, this delightful store displays the works of regional artists and sells baskets, woven rugs and Brazilian folk art in clay, wood and porcelain.

Pé de Boi (Map pp142-3; ☎ 2285 4395; Rua Ipiranga 55, Laranjeiras; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) One of Rio's best handicrafts stores, Pé de Boi sells works in wood and ceramic as well as tapes-

tries, sculptures and weavings that showcase the talent of artists from Amazonia, Minas Gerais and further afield.

Liquors

Lidador (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2512 1788; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1079, Leblon; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) One of Leblon's best wine shops, Lidador stocks Chilean, Argentinean and even Brazilian wines as well as *cachaça* and other spirits.

Markets

Rio's biggest market is found at the Feira Nordestina (p156) in São Cristóvão.

Babilônia Feira Hype (Map pp138-9; www.babiloniahype.com.br; Jockey Club Brasileiro, Rua Jardim Botânico 971, Jardim Botânico; admission R\$6; ☎ 2-10pm Sat & Sun) A huge fair of clothing, sunglasses and jewelry stalls, with live bands and food stalls. You can also get your fortune read by *místicos* (fortune tellers) or receive a henna tattoo.

Hippie Fair (Feira de Arte de Ipanema; Map pp138-9; Praça General Osório, Ipanema; ☎ 9am-5pm Sun) The Zona Sul's big market, the Hippie Fair has lots of artwork, jewelry, handicrafts and clothing. A stall in the southeast corner of the plaza sells tasty plates of *acarajé*.

Praça do Mercado Feira de Antiguidades (Map pp144-5; Praça Mercado Municipal, Centro; ☎ 9am-5pm Sat) This antique market, next to the Niterói ferry terminal, is a browser's paradise with a vast array of antiques – silverware, carpets, pocket watches, jewelry, typewriters, records, art-deco and art-nouveau items.

Feira do Rio Antigo (Rio Antiques Fair; Map pp144-5; Rua do Lavradio, Centro; ☎ 10am-6pm 1st Sat of month) Although the Rio Antiques Fair happens just once a month, don't miss it if you're in town. The colonial buildings become a living installation as the whole street fills with antiques and music.

Music

Most places will let you listen to CDs before you buy.

Modern Sound (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2548 5005; www.modernsound.com.br; Rua Barata Ribeiro 502, Copacabana) One of Brazil's largest music stores stocks an impressive selection, including staff recommendations, top Rio artists and imports. Live music shows are staged here most days, at Allegro Bistrô Musical (p179).

Plano B (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2507 9860; Rua Francisco Muratori 2A, Lapa) An underground favorite among local DJs, Plano B has new and used

records and CDs, as well as a tattoo parlor in the back.

Arlequin (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2220 8471; Av Primeiro de Março, Centro) Set inside the Paço Imperial, Arlequin is a pleasant place to browse for CDs, records and used books (in Portuguese) while exploring the area.

Feira de Música (Map pp144-5; Rua Pedro Lessa, Centro; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) During the week browse through bins of records and CDs at this open-air market in Centro.

Toca do Vinícius (Map pp138-9; ☎ 2247 5227; www.tocadoviniicius.com.br; Rua Vinícius de Moraes 129, Ipanema) Bossa nova's smooth sound lives on in this shop dedicated to old and new artists of the genre. Upstairs, Vinícius de Moraes fans can get a glimpse of his life's work in the small museum dedicated to him.

Top Sound (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2267 9607; Av NS de Copacabana 1103C, Copacabana) A small store with a decent selection of new and used CDs.

Shopping Malls

Rio has many large *shoppings* (malls), particularly in Barra. Most keep hours from 10am to 10pm Monday through Saturday. Some open on Sunday as well (3pm to 10pm, typically).

Barra Shopping (Map p137; Av das Américas 4666, Barra da Tijuca) Enormous! It has 500 stores, 42 restaurants and five movie screens.

Botafogo Praia Shopping (Map pp142-3; Praia de Botafogo 400, Botafogo) Great views from top-floor restaurants.

Rio Design Center (Map p137; Av das Américas 7770, Barra da Tijuca) Art galleries and high-end shops selling home furnishings and decorative pieces.

Rio Sul (Map pp142-3; Rua Lauro Müller 116, Botafogo)

São Conrado Fashion Mall (Map p137; Estrada da Gávea 899, São Conrado) The city's most upscale boutiques and pretty cafés, too.

Shopping Leblon (Map pp138-9; Av Afrânio de Melo Franco 290, Leblon) Rio's newest, with glitzy shops and enticing eateries.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Most flights depart from Aeroporto Galeão (Map p137; also called Aeroporto Antônio Carlos Jobim), 15km north of the center. Some flights to/from São Paulo and other nearby cities use Aeroporto Santos Dumont (Map pp144-5), in the city center. Many international airlines have offices on or near Av Rio Branco, Centro.

Gol (☎ 0800 701 2131; www.voegol.com.br; Aeroporto Galeão, Aeroporto Santos Dumont) All travel agents sell Gol tickets.

TAM (☎ 3212 9300; www.tam.com.br; Av Rio Branco 245, Centro)

Varig (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2510 6650; www.varig.com.br; Av Rio Branco 277, Centro)

The following lists sample prices on Gol and TAM, Brazil's major carriers. Prices quoted are one-way and leave from Aeroporto Galeão. Given frequent specials and volatile prices, this information is subject to change.

Destination	Airline	Cost	Frequency
Belém	Gol	R\$369-625	3-4 daily
	TAM	R\$420-650	7-10 daily
Fortaleza	Gol	R\$379-520	12-20 daily
	TAM	R\$369-550	12-20 daily
Foz do Iguaçu	Gol	R\$180-565	4-6 daily
	TAM	R\$220-370	5-7 daily
Manaus	Gol	R\$349-805	5-9 daily
	TAM	R\$500-620	3-4 daily
Recife	Gol	R\$209-349	5-7 daily
	TAM	R\$289-489	12-20 daily
Salvador	Gol	R\$129-289	5-7 daily
	TAM	R\$259-320	12-20 daily
São Paulo	Gol	R\$89-209	4-7 daily
	TAM	R\$189	3-5 daily

Bus

Buses leave from the **Rodoviária Novo Rio** (Novo Rio Bus Station; Map pp146-7; ☎ 3213 1800; www.novorio.com.br; Av Francisco Bicalho, São Cristóvão), about 2km northwest of Centro. Several buses depart daily to most major destinations, but it's best to buy tickets in advance. Some travel agencies in the city sell bus tickets. If you're in Centro, try **Dantur Passagens** (Map pp144-5; ☎ 2262 3424; downstairs, Store 134, Av Rio Branco 156, Centro; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri).

If you arrive in Rio by bus, it's a good idea to take a taxi to your hotel, as the bus station is in a seedy area. To arrange a cab, go to the small booth near the Riotur desk, on the 1st floor of the bus station. Average fares are R\$35 to the international airport and R\$30 to Copacabana or Ipanema.

In addition to destinations below, buses leave Novo Rio every 30 minutes or so for São Paulo (R\$57 to R\$74, six hours) operated by **Viação 1001** (☎ 4004 5001) and **Itapemirim** (☎ 0800 723 2121).

Destination	Duration	Cost	Frequency	Company
International				
Buenos Aires, Argentina	46hr	R\$310	daily	Pluma (☎ 2233 0336)
Santiago, Chile	72hr	R\$362	daily	Pluma (☎ 2233 0336)
National				
Angra dos Reis	3hr	R\$31	2 daily	Costa Verde (☎ 2233 3809)
Belém	52hr	R\$290	daily	Transbrasiliana (☎ 2516 8284)
Belo Horizonte	7hr	US\$57-95	8 daily	Viação Cometa (☎ 4004 9600)
Brasília	17hr	R\$142-162	2 daily	Util (☎ 2518 1133)
Cabo Frio	3½hr	R\$18-20	20 daily	Viação 1001 (☎ 4004 5001)
Curitiba	13hr	R\$108-140	5 daily	Penha (☎ 0800 723 2122)
Florianópolis	18hr	R\$179	daily	Itapemirim (☎ 0800 723 2121)
Foz do Iguaçu	23hr	R\$184	2 daily	Pluma (☎ 2233 0336)
Ouro Preto	7hr	R\$60-90	2 daily	Util (☎ 2518 1133)
Paraty	4hr	R\$39	7 daily	Costa Verde (☎ 2233 3809)
Petrópolis	1½hr	R\$12	10 daily	Facil/Unica (☎ 2263 8792)
Porto Alegre	26hr	R\$200	daily	Itapemirim (☎ 0800 723 2121)
Recife	38hr	R\$235	daily	São Geraldo (☎ 2263 9008)
Salvador	26hr	R\$176	daily	Águia Branca (☎ 4004 1010)
Vitória	8hr	R\$55-69	4 daily	Itapemirim (☎ 0800 723 2121)

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airports

Rio's international airport, Aeroporto Galeão (GIG) is 15km north of the city center, on Ilha do Governador. Aeroporto Santos Dumont, used by some domestic flights, is by the bay-side in the city center, 1km east of Cinelândia metro station.

Real Auto Bus (☎ 0800 240 850) operates buses with air-con from the international airport (outside the arrivals floor of Terminal 1 or the ground floor of Terminal 2) to Rodoviária Novo Rio, Av Rio Branco (Centro), Aeroporto Santos Dumont, southward through Glória, Flamengo and Botafogo and along the beaches of Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon to Barra da Tijuca (and vice versa). The buses run every 30 minutes, from 5:20am to 12:10am, and will stop wherever you ask. Fares are around R\$6, and it takes anywhere from one to two hours to reach the Zona Sul from the airport depending on traffic. You can also transfer to the metro at Carioca metro station.

Heading to the airports, you can catch the Real Auto bus in front of the major hotels, along the main beaches, but you have to look alive and flag them down.

Taxis from the international airport may try to rip you off. The safest course, a radio taxi for which you pay a set fare at the airport, is also the most expensive (R\$72/86 to Copacabana/Ipanema). A yellow-and-blue *comúm*

(common) taxi should cost around R\$60 to Ipanema if the meter is working.

Boat

Rio has several islands in the bay that you can visit by ferry, though you can also get fine views on the commuter ferry to Niterói. See p156 for more information.

Ilha de Paqueta (Map p137; ☎ ferries 4004 3113, hydrofoils 2533 4343) The regular ferry (weekday/weekend return R\$7.20/12, 70 minutes, seven to nine daily) runs from 7:10am to 11pm. The hydrofoil (return R\$16, 30 minutes, two to four daily) often cancels service for no apparent reason.

Niterói (Map p137) The ferry (return R\$4.60, 20 minutes) leaves every 20 minutes from Praça XV de Novembro in Centro (Map pp144-5). Faster and more comfortable catamarans (return R\$11, 10 minutes) run every 15 minutes from 7am to 4pm.

Car

Driving can be frustrating even if you know your way around. If you do drive in Rio, it's good to know a couple of things: The first is that Cariocas don't always stop at red lights at night, because of the small risk of robberies at deserted intersections. Instead they slow at red lights and proceed if no one is around. Another thing to know is that if you park your car on the street, it's common to pay the *flanelinha* (parking attendant) R\$2 for looking after it. Some of them work for the city; others

are 'freelance,' but regardless, it's a common practice throughout Brazil.

HIRE

Car-hire agencies can be found at either airport or scattered along Av Princesa Isabel in Copacabana. At the international airport, **Hertz** (☎ 3398 4377), **Localiza** (☎ 3398 5445) and **Unidas** (☎ 3398 3452) provide hire cars. In Copacabana the following are worth a try: **AVIS** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2543 8481; Av Princesa Isabel 350, Copacabana), **Localiza** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2275 3340; Av Princesa Isabel 150, Copacabana), **Actual** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2541 3444; Av Princesa Isabel 181, Copacabana) and **Hertz** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 2275 7440; Av Princesa Isabel 500, Copacabana).

For more information on renting a car, see p721.

Public Transportation

METRO

Rio's subway system is an excellent, speedy way to get around. It's open from 5am to midnight Monday through Saturday and 7am to 11pm on Sunday and holidays. During Carnival the metro operates nonstop from Friday morning until Tuesday at midnight.

Both air-conditioned lines are clean, fast and safe. The main line goes from Cantagalo (which opened in 2007) in Copacabana to Saens Peña, connecting with the secondary line at Estácio (which provides service to São Cristóvão, Maracanã and northern suburbs). More stations are planned in the coming years, and eventually Ipanema (Praça General Osório) will be linked to the system. You can buy one-way, round-trip or 10-ride tickets. A basic single costs R\$2.30, and there's

no discount for round-trip or multiple-ride tickets – although you can connect to an Integração bus for free. Just be sure to request a *bilhete integração* (integrated ticket) at the ticket booth. Free subway maps are available at most ticket booths.

BUS & VAN

Rio buses (R\$1.90 to R\$2.30) are fast and frequent, and because Rio is long and narrow it's easy to get the right bus and usually no big deal if you're on the wrong one. Most buses going south from the center will go to Copacabana, and vice versa. The buses are, however, often crowded, stuck in traffic, and driven by raving maniacs. They're also the sites of many of the city's robberies, and it's not wise to ride late at night. On most buses you now board at the front, and pay the fare to the money collector. To avoid pickpockets and muggers, try to sit near the front of the bus. Avoid packed buses.

Minibuses (Cariocas call them vans) provide a faster alternative between Av Rio Branco in Centro and the Zona Sul as far as Barra da Tijuca. The destination is written in the front window. The flat fare costs around R\$4.

Taxi

Rio's taxis are quite handy for zipping around town. Metered taxis charge around R\$4.30 flat rate, plus around R\$3 per km – slightly more at night and on Sunday. Radio taxis are 30% more expensive, but safer.

A selection of radio taxis includes **Centraltáxi** (☎ 2593 2598), **Coopatáxi** (☎ 3899 4343), **JB** (☎ 2501 3026) and **Transcoopass** (☎ 2560 4888).