



Country Intelligence Brief

Brazil

Overall Risk Rating

3.00 - Moderate

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Ratings Overview

Security

3.00 - Moderate

Civil Unrest	3.00
Crime	3.50
Kidnapping	4.00
Terrorism	1.50
Armed Conflict	1.50
Security Services	4.00

Infrastructure

2.50 - Moderate

Ground Transport	2.75
Cyber	3.50
Maritime	3.00
Air Travel	1.00
Utilities	2.50

Environment

2.50 - Moderate

Man-Made Hazards	2.50
Seismic	1.50
Storm Systems	2.50
Natural Hazards	2.50

Health and Medical

3.00 - Moderate

Disease and Health Threats	3.25
Medical Facilities and Services	3.00
Mental Health	3.25
Food and Water Safety	2.75

Political

3.00 - Moderate

Corruption	3.75
Government Stability	2.75
Rule of Law	2.75
Sanctions	1.25

LGBTQ Security

3.00 - Moderate

LGBTQ Legal Environment	1.00
LGBTQ Enforcement	3.00
LGBTQ Social Environment	3.00

FactBox

Location	Brazil
Government Type	Federal Presidential Republic
Population	213,562,666 (2026)
Languages	Official languages: Portuguese. Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken: Spanish, English, Italian, German, Japanese, many Indigenous languages, including Guarani. Languages that should be used discreetly: None.
International Country Code	+55
Time Zones	UTC-2, UTC-3, UTC-4, UTC-5
Traffic	Drives on the right
Drinking Water	Not Safe to Drink

Overview

3.00 - Moderate

Brazil, the only Portuguese-speaking country in the Americas, is a principal anchor economy in South America and, alongside Mexico, across Latin America. It benefits from well-developed agricultural and service sectors but continues to grapple with the legacy of high-profile corruption investigations, which have fueled voter dissatisfaction, political polarization, and the potential for unrest. Protests, demonstrations, and strikes occur regularly in major cities and can become disruptive or violent, particularly near government buildings and transportation hubs.

Brazil presents a mixed security environment, with risks varying significantly by location. Violent crime, including homicide, armed robbery, and carjacking, can occur in urban areas, with elevated risks linked to organized crime groups, militias, and drug-trafficking organizations. Major cities such as São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro face persistent crime concerns, while poorer northeastern areas tend to experience higher levels of violence; border regions, informal settlements, and parts of Brasília at night are also considered higher risk. The Amazon region poses additional challenges due to limited infrastructure and restricted access to emergency services, while even more developed southeastern areas face localized crime and periodic severe weather.

Security

3.00 - Moderate

There are no major conflict threats for Brazil, either internally or externally. Crime in Brazil ranges from principally opportunistic in cities like Florianópolis to a mix of opportunistic and violent in Rio de Janeiro to more heavily violent in cities such as Salvador. In general, most violent crime is concentrated in the northeast. There exist minor concerns over the presence of radical Islamist sympathizers in the tri-border area (TBA). Arrests of such sympathizers have also been made elsewhere in the country. Brazil has developed an increasingly strong protest culture, particularly over political and economic issues.

Civil Unrest

● 3.00

Current situation:

Brazil remains politically polarized ahead of the 2026 general elections, with demonstrations occurring regularly across the country's major urban centers. Recent demonstrations have been driven primarily by developments related to former President Jair Bolsonaro's conviction and sentencing, including protests by supporters calling for amnesty and opposition groups mobilizing against such measures. Legislative initiatives perceived as expanding legal protections for political figures or reducing judicial oversight have also drawn public criticism and protests. Incidents involving large-scale security operations, particularly in Rio de Janeiro, can also trigger localized demonstrations and renewed scrutiny of public security policies.

Additionally, issue-based protests, including those linked to indigenous rights, environmental policies, and gender-based violence, can mobilize large crowds nationwide. These have often been reinforced by underlying pressures such as inequality, labor concerns, and recent environmental disasters, which amplify unrest when combined with political or security-related triggers.

Triggers:

- Major political events in the lead-up to or during the 2026 elections, including campaign rallies, possible allegations of electoral interference, or controversial legislation.
- Corruption allegations or legislative efforts to grant amnesty or immunity to political figures or to limit judicial oversight.
- High-casualty police operations or incidents of alleged police brutality, particularly in Rio de Janeiro and other urban centers.
- Government decisions affecting indigenous communities, or the inability to stop crimes in the Amazon. This can range from approving infrastructure or extractive projects to failing to stop illegal deforestation and mining.

- High-profile femicide or gender-based violence cases, especially those gaining national media attention.

Background:

Social unrest in Brazil is concentrated primarily in major urban centers, particularly São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasília, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Recife, Salvador, and other state capitals. Demonstrations also occur in the Amazon region, particularly in Amazonas and Pará states, where Indigenous and environmental groups frequently mobilize around land rights and environmental issues.

Large-scale protests capable of attracting tens or hundreds of thousands of participants are generally announced in advance, although smaller demonstrations can emerge rapidly in response to breaking political, judicial, or security-related events. Most protests remain peaceful; however, there is a moderate risk of localized violence, clashes between rival groups, vandalism, or confrontations with security forces during politically charged events.

Strike action is relatively common, particularly among transport workers, teachers, public-sector employees, and other unionized sectors. Such actions can cause significant disruption to transportation networks, government services, ports, airports, and major roadways. While labor-related protests may involve road blockages and operational disruptions, they generally present a lower risk of violence than demonstrations involving highly polarized political issues.

Crime

● 3.50

The country's crime threat varies, sometimes drastically, depending on the specific location. Generally, levels of violent crime are lower in the country's southeastern states and higher in northeastern ones. However, such a generalization does not mean that specific incidents of violence cannot also occur alongside more common opportunistic crime in southeastern cities.

Brazil's most populous cities, including São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, face concerns over both opportunistic and violent crime. In general, opportunistic crime in both cities is most likely to occur in crowded public areas and on public transportation. Violent crime, by contrast, happens more often in isolated areas - often at night - and in poorer neighborhoods, or favelas. Rio de Janeiro is perceived as more dangerous than São Paulo in terms of violent crime due to a higher prevalence of favela-based gangs there and a generally poorer security strategy by local government. São Paulo, by contrast, has been recording notable security gains, particularly concerning homicide rates, but street crime is a growing issue even in central areas of the city. There remains a potential for drug-trafficking-related violence to rise in the future in these cities and others, as drug-trafficking organizations compete for transshipment routes. Currently, drug-trafficking-related violence remains primarily confined to the country's prisons, which house thousands of individuals from criminal groups, as well as in favelas.

In general, rural areas are safer than the country's urban centers. However, exceptions to this rule do exist, particularly along the border with Venezuela, the tri-border area, and the Amazon. Regarding the latter, numerous reports of river-based piracy have been logged against passenger boats in the vast region, as boats are often isolated and vulnerable along long stretches of waterways.

Finally, credit card and debit card theft and fraud have become a notable issue in Brazil. ATM tampering as well as card-skimming in restaurants and other establishments, are commonly reported problems. ATMs in banks, hotels, and other high-end establishments are likely to be safer for usage, but discreetly entering pin numbers is still strongly advised.

Kidnapping

● 4.00

The threat of kidnapping in Brazil is high. Kidnappers are more likely to target locals, especially well-known and/or wealthy businessmen, in for-ransom kidnappings. The most common types of abduction in Brazil include basic opportunistic kidnap-for-ransom, express kidnapping, and virtual kidnapping.

In express kidnappings, foreign nationals face the same threat as locals since abductors randomly target individuals on the street. During express kidnappings, abductors have been known to approach victims as they enter and exit vehicles or are at ATMs; victims are then

typically escorted to other ATMs to withdraw money before being left in an isolated area. Kidnapping rates tend to be inaccurate in Brazil since many incidents go unreported due to victims' fear of reprisals. Victims are sometimes released unharmed and relatively quickly; however, kidnapping-for-ransom victims may face longer periods of confinement. Kidnapping poses the greatest threat in major metropolitan areas, especially Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Terrorism

1.50

While the country has had no significant history of terrorism-related incidents in its recent past, many have emphasized the continued existence of Hezbollah sympathizers in the tri-border area (TBA) shared with Argentina and Paraguay. However, any Islamist activities there are thought to be strictly fundraising-oriented in nature for operations abroad due to the region's lucrative illicit economy; the threat of direct attack is low.

Armed Conflict

1.50

Brazil maintains generally good diplomatic relations with all its neighbors, and disagreements or disputes have never taken on a military dimension in the country's recent history. There exists some tension with Venezuela over the Venezuelan migrant crisis. Internally, there are no formal conflicts per se, although narco-trafficking groups do present an organized nationwide criminal threat that many fear could turn into a kind of slow-burn conflict. However, the security dynamics have not yet become that dire.

Security Services

4.00

The capabilities and responsiveness of security services in Brazil are generally poor. Although Brazil has a number of different security forces, foreign nationals will most likely interact with the Military Police (PM), Tourist Police, and Civil Police (PC). Police officers do not generally speak other languages; however, officers at Tourist Police stations speak a variety of languages, including English, French, German, and Italian. There are Tourist Police stations in Brazil's major cities, including Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, and Salvador. PMs patrol the streets, and the Civil Police (PC) carry out investigations. Resources and capacity vary greatly in Brazil, and largely depend on whether the area is urban or rural. In larger metropolitan areas, security services tend to have better access to resources, while in rural areas, response time is notoriously slow. Corruption among police forces poses an issue; however, officers tend to target local residents for small bribes rather than foreign nationals. If reporting a crime, foreign nationals should also consider liaising with their diplomatic mission.

Infrastructure

2.50 - Moderate

Air travel is safe and in compliance with international safety standards.

Apart from the Amazon and Pantanal regions, the Brazilian road network is rather comprehensive. However, road quality will vary.

The Port of Santos is considered the busiest port in Latin America and is efficient and safe.

Basic services such as water, electricity, and fuel availability are generally reliable in most urban areas as well as in many rural areas apart from the Amazon and Pantanal.

The country is considered an attractive target for cyberattacks. Its defenses against such an attack are thought to be weak.

Ground Transport

2.75

Certain areas, such as the Amazon and Pantanal, are difficult to access by road, as they remain largely undeveloped and rely on only a handful of roads which can be made impassable by flooding; indeed, river transportation is often more common in the Amazon. Apart from these areas, the country's road network is generally good at facilitating travel to most locations. Road conditions will depend upon a number of variables, including usage and proximity to urban areas. Major highways and urban road networks are generally in adequate condition for travel. Roads in more rural areas are far more vulnerable to deterioration. Many may be dirt-based and are particularly susceptible to heavy rainfall. However, travelers should note that the country as a whole sees a disconcertingly high number of per capita road fatalities each year.

Local Buses

● Unrated

Intercity bus travel is available between most major cities. Intercity buses in Brazil have a poor safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a high threat to travelers. Terror warnings are rare on Brazil's intercity bus network.

City buses are available in most urban centers. City buses have a poor safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a high threat to travelers. Terror warnings are rare on Brazil's city bus networks.

Mass Transit

● Unrated

Metro systems are available in some major cities in Brazil. The country's metro systems are generally efficient and safe. Derailments and other accidents are rare. Securing personal items onboard metro trains is important, as theft is an especially common problem. Terrorism poses a minimal threat to metro networks. Terror warnings are rare on Brazil's metro networks.

Taxis

● Unrated

Taxis are readily available in all major cities in Brazil. Traffic accidents involving taxis are rare, and crime on taxis poses a moderate threat to travelers. Overcharging is commonly perpetrated against taxi passengers, especially foreign nationals. Taxis arranged in advance by upscale hotels or trusted business associates are generally safer than those hailed on the street.

Ride-sharing or vehicles ordered through online apps are available in most major cities in Brazil. Substantial tensions between traditional taxi services and app-based ride-sharing services occasionally lead to violence or vandalism that poses a threat to patrons of either method of transport.

Train Travel

● Unrated

Train Safety

Trains in Brazil have a poor recent safety record. Derailments and rail accidents involving passenger trains rarely occur. Incidents of petty theft are common on trains in Brazil. Rail Stations in Brazil are generally unsafe.

Reliability and Availability

Brazil has a small intercity passenger rail network. Rail travel is available between few major cities. Trains in Brazil generally run on time.

International Rail Travel

Brazil has international rail connections with Bolivia. Connections between Brazil and Bolivia are subject to border controls, and passengers may be required to present travel permits before crossing.

Vehicles and Roads

● Unrated

Road safety conditions in Brazil are generally adequate. Traffic in Brazil drives on the right. Roads in cities are generally paved and well-maintained, whereas roads in rural areas are generally unpaved and/or poorly maintained. Drivers generally ignore traffic laws. Police often do not enforce traffic laws. Serious traffic accidents are common. Heavy traffic is common in major cities. Criminals often steal from moving vehicles. Foreigners planning to drive in Brazil must have a valid driver's license. Car rentals are available in most major cities.

International Road Travel

Brazil has international road connections with multiple countries. Connections between Brazil and other countries are subject to border controls, and passengers may be required to pass through customs before crossing.

Cyber

● 3.50

Geostrategic Concerns

Brazil presents a high level of risk, driven by foreign espionage pressure, high digital adoption, and fragmented governance. Brazil is not a major offensive cyber state, but its global role and large economy make government, telecoms, finance, energy, and public-service systems attractive targets. China-, Russia-, and North Korea-backed actors have targeted Brazilian government and enterprise users through phishing and credential theft.

Domestic surveillance risk is credible for political, judicial, media, and civil-society targets. The Brazilian Intelligence Agency (ABIN) faced investigations over alleged illegal monitoring of journalists, judges, ministers, and critics during former president Jair Bolsonaro's 2019-2022 administration. The government does not tend to impose digital disruptions, such as suspending internet services, in response to unrest or instability. However, courts also ordered temporary platform blocks in 2024 and 2025 in response to legal disputes.

The legal and regulatory environment in Brazil is evolving, with key measures including the General Data Protection Law, the Brazilian Civil Rights Framework for the Internet Law, the National Cybersecurity Policy, and the Consumer Protection Code. These laws impose requirements on data protection, privacy, public-private sector cooperation, and breach reporting, but their effectiveness is hindered by selective enforcement and resource constraints. The country has also issued Decree No. 12,573/2025, which establishes a national cybersecurity authority to enhance coordination between the government, the private sector, and critical infrastructure providers, and to strengthen defenses against both domestic and international threats. Overall, domestic digital infrastructure is moderately secure, with officials actively working to improve a fragmented cybersecurity ecosystem.

Cybercrime

Cybercrime is a high, systemic threat. Brazil's large online population, mature banking sector, and mass use of PIX instant payments create a rich target base for fraud groups. Criminal activity is mainly financially motivated, led by phishing, account takeover, banking fraud, credential theft, ransomware, and Brazilian banking malware.

Brazil also acts as a regional cybercrime hub. Local criminal groups benefit from Portuguese-language targeting, dense digital-payment use, and strong demand for stolen identity data. Deepfake-enabled fraud is growing, especially as criminals exploit biometric checks, voice messages, or trusted business relationships.

Ransomware and data-extortion groups create strategic risk for public services, healthcare, education, logistics, finance, and small to medium-sized firms. Larger companies usually have stronger controls, but they remain exposed through suppliers, contractors, and customer-facing systems.

Law enforcement capability is improving through Federal Police operations, financial crime probes, and foreign cooperation. Deterrence remains uneven because cyber caseloads are high, investigations cross state and national borders, and criminal groups can launder funds quickly. For foreign operators, the main risks are payment fraud, credential theft, employee impersonation, and supplier compromise.

Maritime

 3.00

Port overview

Brazil has as many as 175 ports along its waterways and Atlantic Ocean coast. Approximately 32 of these are public ports, while the rest are private ports. The most significant Brazilian ports are Santos, Santarem, Salvador, Vitoria, Paranagua, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande, Ponta da Madeira, Itaquí, and Pecém. The port of Santos is the largest and busiest container port in Brazil and in Latin America. The Port of Paranagua is Brazil's second busiest port and the largest bulk port, while the Port of Itajai is a significant hub for Brazil's trade with Asia. Many ports have poor, outdated infrastructure which limits handling capacity. Additionally, many ports, particularly Santos and Paranagua, experience high congestion during peak seasons, which causes shipping delays. Other issues include slow bureaucratic processes (such as customs and port inspections), the propensity for labor strikes and disputes at ports, and crime such as theft or smuggling.

Ferries

Ferry and boat travel is available between many areas of Brazil. In particular, ferries along the Amazon River are popular amongst locals and tourists. Despite the popularity, boating and ferry accidents are common. Boats are often involved in collisions or may capsize due to poor infrastructure or overloading. Pirates and other criminals also pose a threat to passenger and cargo vessels along Brazil's waterways, including the Amazon River, as they will attempt to board vessels and steal cargo. There have also been instances of passengers being held hostage.

Maritime threats

Drug trafficking is common in Brazil. Drugs are transported along Brazil's sea routes to North America and Europe predominantly. The country's vast coastline and numerous ports, combined with insufficient security and inadequate container searching, make Brazil a major exporter of illegal drugs. Waterways are also used to transport drugs, especially cocaine, to Brazil's ports for exportation. Drugs are often packaged at ports inside other legitimately packed and sealed containers, which are then placed on to ships. The trafficking of weapons, including firearms, is also an issue in Brazil, mainly occurring at the ports of Santos and Paranagua. Human trafficking may occur at ports, but this is more common inland. In addition to smuggling, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUUF) also occurs in Brazil, and illegally sourced wildlife is often transported along with other illicit substances. In the country's waterways, illegal river mining for gold has become a prominent issue, which has led to clashes with security, resulting in exchanged gunfire and explosions. Petty crime, such as theft may also occur in Brazil's ports.

Pirate attacks do occur in Brazil's coastal waters but are most frequent in the Amazon River. The illegal boarding of boats is a common occurrence, involving theft, holding hostages, and violent attacks. Police do not have the capacity to monitor or prosecute these crimes, largely due to the size of the Amazon and numerous tributaries to which criminals can escape. While smaller vessels are at risk, pirates also target larger cargo ships, particularly those carrying fuel.

Regional tensions over Brazil's territorial waters center mostly around mineral and oil deposits found in and around Brazil's marine zone. Brazil has submitted numerous proposals to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) to extend its continental shelf upon the discovery of oilfields. Subsequently, Brazil's exclusive economic zone has been slightly extended. Nonetheless, offshore oil drilling has been a source of tension within Brazil, with environmental activists and indigenous groups protesting against offshore oil projects.

Brazil's coastal waters and inland waterway tend to have large amounts of plastic and oil pollution due to inadequate waste management. This can pose as a navigational hazard to vessels due to reduced water visibility. Additionally, Brazil's coast can be prone to heavy winds and

unexpected large waves. Congestion at ports due to limited handling capacity is also common in Brazil's ports. In the Amazon River, flooding or possible droughts may halt shipping and impact port operations. Cyclones are rare, but can occur in Brazil, contributing to adverse weather events such as floods.

Air Travel

1.00

There are no major concerns regarding air travel to or from Brazil, and the country's aviation safety record is considered on par with international standards; it is in compliance with all relevant EU and ICAO guidelines, the latter as assessed by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Utilities

2.50

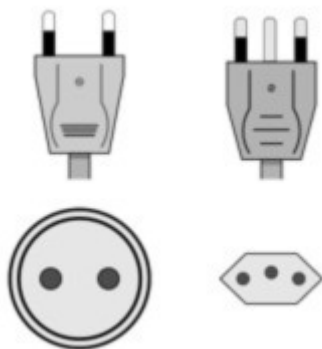
Utilities in major cities and towns are generally reliable, though power outages can occur from surges in demand. Rural areas are also typically well connected to utility grids if they have historically been populated. However, utilities in areas in more remote or inaccessible regions, such as the Amazon and Pantanal, are by no means guaranteed with the exception of major population centers there. Additionally, drought conditions have at times affected certain areas, including Sao Paulo state and other southeastern areas, causing water shortages in some places. Internet and telecommunications are of generally modern standards, though reception may be weak in the country's Amazonian and Pantanal interior regions outside of towns and cities there.

Electricity

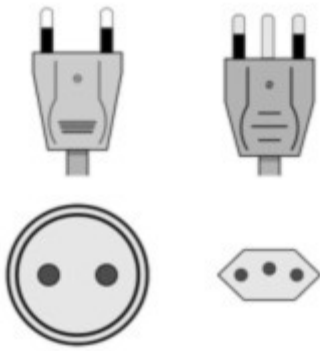
Unrated

Electricity is supplied in Brazil at 127/220 V, 60 Hz. Brazil uses Type C and N plugs.

UNKNOWN



Types de prises



Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in Brazil is readily available in most public and private accommodations in major urban areas and towns, but may be sporadically available in rural areas. Internet activity is considered private and secure in most areas; see Information Security advice sheet.

Environment

2.50 - Moderate

Brazil's climate varies immensely due to its diversity of geography. Extractive industries bring some risk of environmental hazard, and deforestation for agricultural purposes raises additional concerns. Earthquakes are not common in Brazil, save in the country's far west. The southeast is known for particularly powerful storms that can pass through, though heavy rainfall can also occur throughout most of the country in general.

The majority of natural disasters in Brazil result from floods, flash floods, landslides, and droughts. The rainy season is typically from October through April in the southern and southeastern parts of the country and from April through July in the northeast. Prolonged droughts are more likely in the northeast and can cause crop losses, water scarcity, and an increased risk of forest fires.

Man-Made Hazards

● 2.50

Although Brazil relies largely on a service-based economy, mining and oil remain two export mainstays. Dam disasters are possible due to inadequate infrastructure in the mining industry. Oil spills have also been recorded and remain a concern.

Separately, deforestation in the Pantanal and other areas to increase the country's agricultural production has raised concerns over a heightened risk of flooding in the long term. Similar fears exist in the Amazon, though concerns revolve heavily around conservation and species protection efforts. Finally, many of the country's famous beaches in and around its major cities are susceptible to considerable pollution, depending upon rainfall and runoff patterns. Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro, for example, is known to be unfit for swimming.

Seismic

● 1.50

Brazil's northwestern region, particularly Acre State, experiences seismic activity due to its proximity to the Peru-Brazil border, where deep earthquakes often originate. These events can be felt in Acre, though they are typically deep and less damaging at the surface.

Storm Systems

● 2.50

Floods, flash floods, landslides, and droughts cause the majority of natural disasters in Brazil. Heavy rainfall often floods the Pantanal region and raises water levels in the Amazon. The rainy season typically runs October-April in the southern and southeastern parts of the country and April-July in the northeast. The southeast is known for particularly powerful storms that can pass through, though heavy rainfall can occur throughout most of the country. The "Pasillo de los Tornados" (South America's Tornado Alley), which stretches from southern Bolivia across northern Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and far southern Brazil, ranks as the world's second-most active zone for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms after the US Tornado Alley. The non-tropical systems frequently bring hail, tornadoes, and heavy rain. While subtropical storms do sometimes form off the southeastern coast, only one has ever made direct landfall at hurricane strength in the country's recorded history. In May 2024, Rio Grande do Sul experienced its worst flooding in over 80 years, resulting in at least 39 deaths and widespread displacement. Additionally, in September 2023, heavy rainfall and strong winds from an extratropical cyclone led to 47 fatalities and extensive damage in Rio Grande do Sul.

Natural Hazards

 2.50

Brazil's climate is diverse, ranging from tropical coastal to semi-desert to wetland to humid rainforest, with many microclimates in between. This diversity makes it challenging to generalize about the country's climate. However, none of the country's climates, except for parts of the desert-like northeast, are inhospitable. As the country lies both north and south of the equator, seasons vary by region.

Snowfall is rare in Brazil, occurring mainly on the high plains in the south, including states like Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Parana, during the winter months, June-August. While snowfall is uncommon in other parts of the country, it has been recorded at higher elevations in states such as Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais.

Coastal areas can experience very high temperatures during certain seasons, increasing the risk of sunburn, heatstroke, and dehydration for those unaccustomed to such conditions.

Prolonged droughts are more likely in the northeast and can cause crop losses, water scarcity, and an increased risk of forest fires. In late 2023, severe droughts affected approximately 500,000 people.

Air Quality

 Unrated

Air Quality

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress.

Health and Medical

 3.00 - Moderate

Mosquito-borne diseases, including yellow fever in some areas, are the major non-routine epidemiological concern in the country. High-quality medical facilities can be found in all major cities, such as Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Brasilia. More rural areas will have lesser facilities that may or may not suffice depending upon an individual's specific healthcare needs. All major medications can be obtained in most cities and towns, but the availability of medicines in less populated areas will vary. Tap water is not considered safe for drinking unless otherwise directed.

Disease and Health Threats

 3.25

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- **Chagas Disease:** Transmitted through the reduviid beetle or contaminated blood products. Rarely through contaminated food products. Reduviid beetles are mostly found in buildings constructed of mud, adobe brick, or thatch. The acute stage generally occurs immediately after being infected. Most individuals do not have symptoms or experience only mild symptoms. Individuals who develop symptoms generally show nonspecific symptoms such as fever, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea. Most infected individuals will never progress to the chronic stage. However, in up to 30 percent of patients, chronic Chagas disease can cause extensive heart and central nervous system damage, leading to death. Signs of chronic Chagas disease include an enlarged heart, dilated esophagus, and /or dilated colon. Although the risk of infection is low, travelers and ecotourists staying in poor-quality housing, especially in the Amazon region, might be at greater risk for this disease. Outbreaks have also been associated with consuming contaminated food or beverages (sugarcane juice, açaí, bacaba, among others). Most cases of Chagas disease in Brazil have been reported in the states of Amazonas, Amapá, Maranhão, Pará, and Roraima.
 - **Chikungunya:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly during daytime hours. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms commonly include fever, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, and rash. People usually develop symptoms three to seven days after being bitten. Most people recover within a week, but joint pain can sometimes persist for months. The risk of infection is present throughout Brazil and is highest in the states of Ceará and Roraima. Peak transmission occurs from January through June.
 - **Dengue Fever:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mainly during the day. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of dengue fever include a sudden onset of fever and at least one of the following: severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, muscle and/or joint pain, rash, easy bruising, and/or nose or gum bleeding. Fever and other symptoms generally appear abruptly four to seven days after being bitten. Some people have reported experiencing no symptoms. Dengue fever occurs year-round and nationwide in Brazil, with increased risk in urban areas. The risk of infection is highest during the rainy season, typically from January to May.
 - **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Intermediate risk in Brazil.
 - **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Low risk in Brazil.
 - **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.
 - **HIV/AIDS:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience influenza-like illness, including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. Without treatment, the infection can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
 - **Leishmaniasis:** Transmitted through the bites of sandflies. Risk is greatest from dusk to dawn. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is the most common form of *Leishmania* infection, causing skin sores that are usually painless. Visceral leishmaniasis is the second most common; typical symptoms include high fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anemia. If left untreated, this form of leishmaniasis is nearly 100 percent fatal within two years. The risk of leishmaniasis infection exists nationwide in Brazil and is most common in the Amazon and northeast regions.
 - **Leptospirosis:** Transmitted through exposure or ingestion of water contaminated with the urine of infected animals. Flooding poses an additional risk of contracting leptospirosis. Initial symptoms of leptospirosis typically develop two days to four weeks after
-

exposure. Such symptoms include headache, fever, muscle aches, chills, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Those who may be at high risk can take an antibiotic prophylaxis. Outbreaks of leptospirosis usually occur during rainy periods and after heavy flooding in Brazil, mainly in urban areas. Leptospirosis has been reported in all states, with a higher number of cases in the south and southeast regions.

- **Malaria:** Transmitted through mosquito bites. Symptoms of malaria most commonly include fever, chills, headaches and body aches, nausea and vomiting, and general malaise. These symptoms usually develop 10-28 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. However, there are reports of symptoms beginning as early as seven days to as late as one year. Preventative medications (prophylaxis) are available.
 - **Areas at Risk:** Risk is present in all areas of the states of Acre, Amapa, Amazonas, Rondonia, and Roraima. It is also present in Maranhao, Mato Grosso, and Para states, but in rare cases in the capital cities. Rare cases are also present in the forested areas of Espirito Santo, Goias, Mato Grosso do Sul, Piaui, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Tocantins. It is not present in the cities of Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Iguacu Falls.
 - **Period of Transmission:** Year-round. The risk is highest during and immediately following the rainy season, which typically occurs from December through May.
 - **Types of Malaria:** Primarily *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax*
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unknown animals. Wild and domestic animals pose a threat. Human rabies outbreaks mediated by bats in Brazil are concentrated in the Amazon region and the Northeast.
- **Schistosomiasis:** Transmitted via small parasite larvae through exposure to contaminated freshwater bodies. Symptoms include an itchy rash, fever, muscle soreness, and cough. Without treatment, schistosomiasis can persist for years, causing abdominal pain, blood in the urine, problems passing urine, blood in the stool, and an enlarged liver. Schistosoma parasites are found in freshwater lakes and rivers in many Brazilian states, especially in the Northeast and Southeast regions.
- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill by an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract. High risk in Brazil.
- **Tuberculosis:** Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, a bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite. Low risk in Brazil.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Transmitted by contaminated milk, water, and food. Raw fish and shellfish from contaminated waters may be infected. Symptoms of typhoid fever usually include fever, abdominal pain or discomfort, chills and body aches, weakness, and loss of appetite.
- **Yellow Fever:** Transmitted through mosquito bites. Symptoms of yellow fever include fever, muscle pain, backaches, and chills. Brazil is classified as a yellow fever-endemic country. Many countries require proof of yellow fever vaccination or a valid medical waiver for any traveler who has visited or transited through endemic countries. Check the yellow fever vaccine requirements for the next country or countries on your itinerary. Risk of infection exists in the states of Acre, Amapa, Amazonas, Distrito Federal (including Brasilia), Espirito Santo, Goias, Maranhao, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Para, Rio de Janeiro, Rondonia, Roraima, Sao Paulo, and Tocantins. Partial risk in the states of Bahia, Parana, Piaui, Rio Grande do Sul, and Santa Catarina. The disease shows a seasonal pattern, with two periods: higher transmission between December and May and lower transmission between June and November.

- **Zika Virus:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mainly during the day, or sexually through an infected partner. Mosquito bite prevention and practicing safe sex are essential. In many cases, the Zika virus is asymptomatic; however, in some cases, it may cause symptoms similar to dengue and chikungunya, including fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. Significant birth defects have been associated with Zika virus infection in pregnant women. Partners of women who have recently traveled to an area with Zika virus circulation are encouraged to use condoms for at least six months or the duration of a partner's pregnancy. The risk of infection exists year-round and nationwide in Brazil. The lowest transmission rates occur in winter, typically from June to August.

Health Requirements

● Unrated

Yellow Fever: Vaccination Not Required

Brazil is classified as a yellow fever-endemic country. However, proof of vaccination is **not required** upon arrival in Brazil. Many countries require proof of yellow fever vaccination or a valid medical waiver for any traveler who has visited or transited through endemic countries. Be sure to check yellow fever vaccine requirements for the next country or countries on your itinerary. Single dose, full-strength yellow fever vaccine is valid for life.

Vaccination is **recommended** for all travelers aged nine months and over with scheduled travel to the entire states of Acre, Amapa, Amazonas, Distrito Federal (including City of Brasilia), Espirito Santo, Goias, Maranhao, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Para, Parana, Piaui, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondonia, Roraima, Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo, and Tocantins, and certain areas of Bahia State. Vaccination is also recommended for individuals traveling to Iguacu Falls.

Vaccination is **not recommended** for individuals traveling to areas not listed above, such as the cities of Fortaleza and Recife.

HIV Testing

No known restrictions.

Health Recommendations

● Unrated

Recommended Immunizations for Travel to Brazil

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a healthcare professional at least four to six weeks before the trip. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and the annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID-19 vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses, administered at least six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. It is recommended that all susceptible people traveling for any purpose, frequency, or duration to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity be vaccinated or receive immune globulin before departure. A booster is recommended for partially vaccinated travelers.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after a complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing the full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours for short-term protection.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, the WHO and CDC recommend vaccination for individuals who will be performing occupational or recreational activities that increase the risk for exposure to potentially rabid animals, such as animal handlers, field biologists, cavers,

missionaries, veterinarians, and some laboratory workers. It is also recommended for travelers who might have difficulty getting prompt access to safe post-exposure prophylaxis. Brazil has reported rabies in domestic animals, thus most travelers are at risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.

- **Typhoid Fever:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated, especially those staying with friends or relatives in endemic areas or visiting smaller cities or rural areas. Widely used formulations require between two and four doses, depending on the formulation and the recipient's vaccination history. Depending on the formulation, booster vaccination is required every two or five years. The last dose should be taken at least one week before travel.

Medical Facilities and Services

 3.00

Healthcare facilities, specifically private ones, in the country's major population centers are considered appropriate for nearly all medical needs, including emergencies. Those in smaller towns or more rural areas will find facilities to be more lacking, though they may still be adequate for more routine healthcare needs. Although visitors may need to be transported to a major Brazilian city for emergency medical needs, the requirement for medical evacuation out of the country is unlikely. Some facilities may accept international health insurance, but a more likely scenario involves payment upfront by the patient and subsequent reimbursement by the carrier.

Medications and Pharmacy

 Unrated

Pharmacies across Brazil are readily available in urban areas, but access is more limited in rural areas. Supply of most medicines needed by travelers is high. It is recommended to only purchase medication from reputable pharmacies to limit the risk of using counterfeit products or medicines of poor quality. Prior to travelling confirm the status of your "over the counter" medicines with accredited foreign government offices of Brazil in your country. Always carry your prescription medication in its original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription and any other relevant documentation.

Mental Health

 3.25

Mental health service availability is limited and conditions are moderately managed.

Food and Water Safety

 2.75

Drinking water may be unsafe, especially in rural areas. Use only bottled, boiled, or otherwise purified water for drinking and cooking. Do not use ice cubes made from unpurified water sources. Eat only thoroughly cooked food served hot, or fruits and vegetables that you have cleaned and peeled; avoid salads. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Avoid street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

Political

 3.00 - Moderate

Corruption is endemic in Brazil, though anti-corruption investigations have encouragingly become more common. Rule of law has improved somewhat due to crackdowns on corruption and the country's system of governance is fundamentally sound. Sanctions are not a major concern for Brazil.

Corruption

 3.75

Recognizing increasing public angst and economic damage from how ingrained graft is within the national political culture, the country has increasingly led major recent anti-corruption investigations. Investigations can lead to the imprisonment of high-profile politicians, government contractors, and businesspeople, reflecting the judiciary's commitment to holding officials accountable for corruption and misconduct. In this sense, the country differs from some other Latin American nations, in which corruption is just as endemic, but the overall trend in tackling graft remains quite poor.

However, lower-level forms of corruption, such as bribes solicited in interactions between public employees and private citizens, remain a pressing problem that generally receives far less attention from the media and judicial system.

Government Stability

 2.75

Brazil operates according to a presidential representative democracy, and directly elected current President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is both head of government and head of state. The legislative branch, a directly elected bicameral Congress, is charged with passing legislation, and an independent judiciary interprets legislation and the constitution. No single party holds a majority in either house of Congress, and the legislature is comprised of an unusually high number of political parties with often shifting alliances. The right-wing Liberal Party (PL) is the largest in both chambers while leftist Workers' Party (PT) is the second largest in the lower Chamber of Deputies and the center-right Social Democratic Party (PSD) is the second largest in the Senate.

While elections in Brazil are widely regarded as free and fair, electoral periods can be turbulent. High levels of polarization in the country and the growth of anti-democratic movements have raised concerns over politically motivated violence and major unrest during electoral periods.

Major anti-corruption investigations in Brazil can raise concerns over instability as they can result in significant unrest and be perceived by some as politically motivated. However, the country's investigations tend follow proper constitutional order, and the effect of such investigations is more reflective of volatility within Brazilian politics rather than any breakdown in the country's basic system of governance.

Rule of Law

 2.75

Most interpret the vigor with which the judicial system has been tackling major corruption cases as a sign of a strengthening of the rule of law. However, more remote and undeveloped areas - such as the vast stretches of the Amazon - remain to a certain degree lawless due to a more limited state presence. The dearth of government resources there has allowed piracy along Amazonian waterways to become a notable problem for those living or traveling in the region. Criminal impunity also remains a severe issue in northeastern cities and in the favelas of major urban centers, indicating that despite the overall improvements in the country's rule of law, there are still some significant deficiencies.

Sanctions

 1.25

The international community views Brazil as a generally cooperative country, so multilateral sanctions are unlikely. Unilateral sanctions imposed are likely to target only specific individuals.

Legal

Unrated

Visitors to Brazil are subject to local laws, which may not mirror, either in whole or in part, those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, temporarily or permanently expelled, or tried *in absentia* depending on the nature of the offense. Home-country consular officers are typically systematically informed of a detention when requested by the detained citizen and are permitted to provide support services to their detained citizens. When there is no treaty in force, notification and access

depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

Emergency Contacts

● Unrated

Emergency Contacts

Ambulance 192

Fire 193

Police 190 (Federal Highway Police: 191)

Embassies and Consulates

● Unrated

Canadian Embassy

Address SES - Av. das Nacoes, Quadra 803, Lote 16, 70410-900 Brasilia DF

Fax (55-61) 3424 5490

Telephone +55 61 3424 5400

Email brslag@international.gc.ca

Web Site <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/brazil-bresil/brasilvia.aspx>

US Consulate General (Recife)

Address Rua Goncalves Maia 163 - Boa Vista, Recife, PE 50070-060

Fax (55-81) 3231 1906

Telephone (81) 3416-3050

Web Site <https://br.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/recife/>

German Embassy

Address SES Avenida das Nações, Quadra 807, Lote 25, 70415-900 Brasilia DF

Fax +55 61 34 42 70 20 / +55 61 34 42 70 36

Telephone [+55 61 3442-7000](tel:+556134427000)

Email info@bras.diplo.de

Web Site <https://brasil.diplo.de/br-pt>

British Consulate General (Recife)

Address Av. Agamenon Magalhaes 4775, 8 andar - Ilha do Leite, Recife, PE 50070-160

Email recife@britishconsulate.org.br

Telephone [+55 81 2127-0200](tel:+558121270200)

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-recife>

British Embassy

Address Setor de Embaixadas Sul Quadra 801 - Conjunto K - Lote 8 - Brasilia, DF CEP 70408-900
Fax (55-61) 3329 2369
Telephone +55 61 3329 2300
Email press.brasilia@fco.gov.uk
Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-brazil>

Australian Embassy

Address Ses Quadra 801 Conjunto K, Lote 7, DF 70200-010, Brasilia
Email embaustr@dfat.gov.au
Telephone +61 2 6196 0196
Web Site <https://brazil.embassy.gov.au/>

Austrian Embassy

Address SES (Setor de Embaixadas Sul), Av. das Nacoes, Quadra 811 - Lote 40. 70426-900, Brasilia DF
Fax (55-61) 3443 5233
Telephone +55-61-3443 311
Web Site <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/oeb-brasilia/>
Opening hours Monday - Friday 9.00 - 13.00

British Consulate General (Sao Paulo)

Address Rua Ferreira Araujo 741, 2 Andar - Pinheiros, Sao Paulo, SP 05428-002
Fax (55-11) 3094 2717
Email bcg.sp@uk.org.br
Telephone [+55 11 3094-2700](tel:+551130942700)
Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-sao-paulo>

US Consulate General (Sao Paulo)

Address Rua Henri Dunant, 500 - Chacara Santo Antonio, Sao Paulo, SP 04709-110
Telephone (55-11) 3250-5000
Web Site <https://br.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/saopaulo/>

US Consulate General (Rio de Janeiro)

Address Avenida Presidente Wilson 147 - Castelo, Rio de Janeiro, RJ 20030-020
Fax (55-21) 3823 2003
Telephone (+55 21) 3823-2000
Opening hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Monday through Friday
(except on U.S. and major Brazilian Holidays)

Web Site <https://br.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/riodejaneiro/>

US Embassy

Address Avenida das Nacoes, Quadra 801, Lote 03 - Brasilia DF 70403-900

Fax (55-61) 3225 9136

Web Site <https://br.usembassy.gov/>

British Consulate General (Rio de Janeiro)

Address Praia do Flamengo 284, 2 Andar - Rio de Janeiro, RJ 22210-030 BRASIL

Fax (55-21) 2555 9671

Telephone [+55 21 2555-9600](tel:+552125559600)

Email bcg.rj@fco.gov.uk

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-rio-de-janeiro>

Spanish Embassy

Address SES Avenida das Nações, Quadra 811, Lote 44.
70429-900 Brasilia DF

Phone +55 61 3701 1600

Email sc.brasilia@maec.es

Web Site <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/brasil/es/Paginas/index.aspx>

French Embassy

Address Avenida das Nacoes, Lote 04 - Quadra 801, CEP 70404-900, 70404-900, Brasilia DF

Telephone +55-61-3222-3999

Web Site <http://www.ambafrance-br.org/>

Opening hours Monday to Friday : 08:00-12:30 and 14:30-18:00

Delegation of the European Commission

Address SHIS QI 07, BL. A- Lago Sul, Brasilia, DF 71615-205 BRASIL

Telephone +55 (61) 2104 3122

Email DELEGATION-BRAZIL@eeas.europa.eu

Web Site https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/brazil_en

Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at: <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com/>.

HIV Testing Requirement: Not required.

Pre-Departure

Unrated

-
- Criminality and unrest pose the most significant security threats in Brazil, and travelers should undertake a pre-travel security brief on the associated threats and operating environment. Travelers are also recommended to have undertaken annual travel security training. Corruption is also problematic, and business travelers should undertake bribery and corruption training before traveling.
 - Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from Brazil and should review contingency options, business continuity, and crisis management plans.
 - There has been a significant rise in the number of mass demonstrations in recent years, and travelers should conduct research into the current political situation in Brazil. If the travel dates coincide with planned elections, anniversaries, or significant dates, additional measures may need to be taken.
 - Travelers should provide friends and family with a copy of their travel itinerary, make a copy of important travel and identification documents, and, if applicable, obtain their visa prior to arrival. Travelers should also have information on their meeting host, accommodation, relevant embassies, and trusted local contacts easily accessible.
 - Travelers should implement a comprehensive suite of IT security measures for electronic devices, such as traveling with “clean” devices, ensuring that all personal identity information and sensitive files are sanitized, and implementing a Full Disk Encryption (FDE). Travelers should also not check business or personal electronic devices with their luggage at the airport.

On Arrival

● Unrated

- Travelers should have a meet and greet procedure in place and proceed through arrivals in a timely manner, departing as soon as practicably possible.
- Travelers should continually reassess the security and threat environment through a range of multi-source intelligence advisories.
- Travelers should carry a copy of their travel documents at all times.

In Transit

● Unrated

- Travelers should avoid using street taxis and instead should utilize low-profile, locally vetted transport providers. Dependent on task and location, security-trained drivers may also be required. Travel routes should avoid isolated areas and potential choke points where practical. Travelers should establish the formal identification of the driver before commencing any trip.
- Travelers should travel with minimal non-essential valuable items. Any valuables should not be displayed publicly.
- Routes and times of movements should be varied and road travel minimized after dark due to the increased risk of vehicular accidents and criminal activity.

At Your Hotel

● Unrated

Travelers should stay in reputable hotels with good international-level security standards and avoid hotels that have high-profile conferences scheduled during their stay. Hotels should be located in areas that have not experienced major unrest and are not affected by political tensions.

Upon arrival at the hotel, travelers should ensure that the driver remains on site until his or her check-in has been confirmed.

Travelers should prefer rooms between floors 2 and 6 and as far away as possible from the main entrance and main public areas. Rooms with access from a side balcony or fire escape should be avoided.

Travelers should always lock the door (and any connecting doors) to their room and use the chain or peephole when receiving a visitor. Do not open the door to the hotel room, especially late at night, until the visitor's identity is confirmed; meet strangers in the lobby, not in the room

In the Street

● Unrated

- Travelers should avoid leaving the hotel alone after dark and during periods of heightened tension as well as minimize time spent in the vicinity of symbolic places and locations of previous unrest.

- Travelers should maintain a low profile, not become involved in local political issues, and avoid discussing politically sensitive topics in public. Travelers should also be aware that photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in detention by authorities.

- Travelers should avoid any demonstrations, protests, and rallies which may attract security forces and present a dynamic and volatile environment.

- Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth; dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment; not display money, jewelry, or valuables; and maintain a low profile.

- Travelers should settle small bills with cash but have a spare credit card available. Travelers should use only small denominations of the local currency and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. The contents of wallets and purses should be reduced, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships, or accounts. Travelers should not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.

- Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travelers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.

- Travelers should be aware of their location and surroundings, avoiding high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travelers should know routes and carry a map if necessary but should keep it concealed.

- In crowded situations, travelers should be aware of jostling, as this may be used as a ploy by pickpockets. Travelers should also be aware of people loitering and of attackers who may first pass their victims to attack from behind.

- Travelers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by. Do not get into an argument, and avoid eye contact with strangers.

- LGBT+ travelers should note that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity remains widespread in Brazil, though the situation varies somewhat by region; public displays of same-sex affection may lead to harassment or violence. Legal protections for LGBT+ individuals are generally strong by regional standards, but enforcement can be lax.

Culture

Unrated

Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, 0900-1800

Government: Monday-Friday, 0900-1800

Banking: Monday-Friday, 1000-1600

Business attire is generally business casual in most places; in Sao Paulo, business attire tends to be more formal.

Appointments are best scheduled Monday-Friday between 0900-1700. Arriving on time to meetings is expected, particularly in Sao Paulo and Brasilia; in Rio de Janeiro, Brazilian counterparts may arrive late, but guests are still expected to arrive on time. Arriving late for social engagements is a common practice. Informal or personal discussions are common. Scheduled meetings will typically run longer than expected. If a meeting includes dining out, the host offers to pay the check. Alcohol taken during lunch may be considered inappropriate, but is normal at dinner.

Portuguese is commonly used for business purposes. Attempts by visitors to use phrases in the native language are well-received, but not expected. Business cards are widely used and are presented using one hand. Always use Mr./Ms./Dr. or a local title until the host indicates that using first names is appropriate. Addressing the host according to their official title is seen as a sign of respect. When beginning and ending meetings, people typically shake hands; in some cases, men and women kiss cheeks. It is important to say goodbye to each individual instead of giving a collective goodbye.

Gestures

● Unrated

Business cards are widely used and can be presented in any manner. Business cards should have one side that is in Portuguese.

When beginning the meeting, men will shake hands with each other, and women will kiss each other on the cheek. Women will extend their hand if they want to shake hands with a man.

Make direct eye contact when speaking to someone.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Placing your thumb on your index finger to make a circle with those fingers and pointing the other three fingers upwards.
- Making a fist and tapping it twice with your other hand.

Religions

● Unrated

Roman Catholic 57 percent, Protestant 27 percent, unaffiliated 8 percent, other, including Spiritist, 8 percent

Ethnicities

● Unrated

White 44 percent, Mulatto 45 percent, Black 10 percent, other, including Asian and Indigenous, 1 percent.

Significant Dates

● Unrated

2026 Significant Dates

Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Feb. 13-18	Carnival
April 3	Good Friday
April 21	Tiradentes Day
May 1	Labor Day

June 4	Corpus Christi
Sept. 7	Independence Day
Oct. 12	Our Lady of Aparecida Day
Oct. 28	Public Service Holiday
Nov. 2	All Souls' Day
Nov. 15	Republic Day
Nov. 20	Black Awareness Day
Dec. 25	Christmas Day

Financial

Unrated

Financial systems can differ considerably by jurisdiction. Acceptance of cash, debit, and credit cards varies across the country. Some locations may only accept cash due to the absence of card-processing machines. Banks or legal money changers typically offer official exchange rates. While the import and export of both local and foreign currency are authorized, sums should not exceed the amount declared upon arrival.

Currency

Unrated

Currency Name/Code

The official currency of Brazil is the Brazilian real (BRL). One Brazilian real is made up of 100 cents (centavos).

Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money changers may offer the best exchange rates in Brazil. Brazil forbids foreigners from exiting with local currency in amounts greater than BRL 10,000 unless declared upon arrival.

Credit Card

Unrated

Major credit cards are widely accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels; however, acceptance in remote towns may be limited.

Taxes and Tipping

Unrated

It is customary to tip hotel personnel and wait staff in restaurants 10 percent; there may be a service charge on the bill.

Bank and ATM

Unrated

ATM Availability

Automated teller machines are widely available in Brazil. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or other populated, well-lit locations.

Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Monday-Friday 1000-1600. Cash advances on major credit cards issued by foreign banks are permitted.

LGBTQ Security

3.00 - Moderate

The overall threat environment in Brazil for members of the LGBTQ community is moderate. While Brazil has comprehensive pro-LGBTQ laws, authorities are unlikely to enforce the provisions outlined in the law. Mixed social attitudes toward the LGBTQ community are likely to continue.

LGBTQ Legal Environment

1.00

The current legal environment in Brazil poses a minimal threat and will likely remain that way for the foreseeable future. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was sworn into office on Jan. 1, 2023, and campaigned with a pro-LGBTQ agenda for his administration. Same-sex sexual acts, same-sex marriages, and same-sex adoptions are legal within the country. The Brazilian federal government banned conversion therapy in 2017. In 2019, Brazil's Supreme Court ruled that sexual orientation and gender identity should be included under existing discrimination protections, which Congress later codified into law. In 2023, the Supreme Court additionally ruled that anti-LGBTQ speech is a punishable offense, classifying it as hate speech. Transgender individuals are allowed to change their legal name and gender via self-identification at a civil registry office, and the public health system provides free gender-affirming surgery. Parents of intersex children may register their gender marker on their birth certificate as "ignored," and depending on the state, a similar option is available to non-binary individuals seeking legal gender recognition.

LGBTQ Enforcement

3.00

The enforcement of LGBTQ-related laws poses a moderate threat, as authorities are unlikely to enforce existing LGBTQ protections. While these protections do exist, they are largely unenforced, and crimes against sexual minorities often go unpunished. Members of the community have reported that police dismiss or do not investigate their complaints. This is a subset of the nationwide lack of responsiveness by security services. Reports of police harassment, especially towards transgender individuals, are common throughout much of the region.

LGBTQ Social Environment

3.00

The social threat environment is moderate as societal acceptance remains mixed. Despite this, LGBTQ individuals continue to run and be elected to office, and government acceptance of the LGBTQ community is rising with the new administration. According to the NGO National Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals (Antra), 26 transgender candidates were elected to city council in 2024. While this number decreased from the 2022 council elections, the NGO remarked that most elected candidates were from rural areas in the country and from progressive political parties. Several cities across the country host vibrant LGBTQ pride festivals, and Sao Paulo's annual festival is South America's largest pride parade, with over 2.5 million people in attendance. LGBTQ hate crimes remain a persistent threat to LGBTQ individuals, particularly transgender women. Throughout 2023, at least 100 transgender individuals were killed in Brazil. According to the NGO Grupo Gay da Bahia, there were 257 murders of LGBTQ individuals in 2023.

Active Alerts**Warning Alert - Brazil - Truck Drivers' Strike**

Truck drivers' strike at ports across Brazil July 13. Cargo transport disruptions likely.

13 July, 2026 12:29 UTC

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