

Destination Guide for Brazil

Overview

Destination Risk Levels

- Medium Medical Risk for Brazil
- Medium Travel Risk for Brazil
- High Travel Risk for Urban trouble spots

Urban trouble spots: HIGH

Avoid all favelas (shanty towns, also known as comunidades), especially those in peripheral or outlying districts. Despite frequent military and police operations, gang and drug-related violence remains high in such areas, where criminal gangs and/or drug cartels are primarily concentrated. While the most notable are situated in Rio de Janeiro (Rio de Janeiro state) and Sao Paulo (Sao Paulo state), all major urban areas in Brazil have favelas. Take into account that many favelas are ensconced in or in close proximity to commercial centres or more upscale areas. In Rio de Janeiro, there are several favelas within the urban area that neighbours upscale districts, including Cantagalo, Peixoto, Rocinha and Vidigal. Sao Paulo has the largest number of favelas in Brazil (more than 1,700). The most notable of these are the Heliopolis favela in the south zone and the Paraisopolis favela, located adjacent to the affluent residential area of Morumbi.

Other than favelas, there are important trouble spots to be considered in Rio de Janeiro. Avoid poorly lit areas near Antero de Quental, General Osorio, Lapa, Nossa Senhora da Paz, Santa Teresa, Santos Dumont and Sibelius and the intersections of Avenida Borges de Medeiros and Avenida Ataulfo de Paiva, Francisco Bering and Francisco Otaviano, and Farma de Amoedo and Barao da Torre, and Avenida Atlantica between Postos 3 and 6 in Copacabana.

In Sao Paulo, areas most affected by drug use should be avoided. These include the historic Centro district, referred to as 'Crackolandia', where criminals are willing to attack people to steal even small amounts of money to purchase drugs. Visits to the Cathedral Metropolitana de Sao Paulo and Praca da Se pose a significant risk due to the large number of drug addicts that frequent these locations. However, these locations can be visited during daylight hours when there is an increased police presence.

Standing Travel Advice

- Travel to Brazil requires standard security precautions, including ensuring that foreign nationals unfamiliar with the local risk environment avoid densely populated areas of major urban centres where risks are rated as HIGH.
- Violent crime poses a significant risk to business travellers. Exercise caution at all times and maintain awareness of the local geography, taking care to avoid HIGH-risk districts.
- Criminals are commonly armed and will attack if they are resisted. If targeted, avoid doing anything to resist or antagonise the assailant.
- Short-term 'express' kidnapping poses a risk to business travellers. Do not accept food or drink from strangers, avoid using ATMs outside banks or after dark and avoid displaying items of real or perceived wealth. International assignees are advised to vary routines, choose a modest model of vehicle and maintain vigilance for signs of surveillance.
- Avoid travelling through overland border crossings due to poor security and the high incidence of crime and smuggling.
- Public transport is not sufficiently secure for business travellers. Use only official taxis or hire a private vehicle and driver. Signage is poor and driving standards are variable; it is inadvisable to self-drive unless familiar with local conditions.
- Avoid demonstrations, rallies and picket lines due to a credible risk of clashes between demonstrators and the security forces. Do not attempt to cross picket lines as this may prompt a hostile reaction.
- Closely monitor all banking account information following any sales transactions in Brazil to ensure credit/debit cards and personal information are not compromised.
- Withdrawing money from ATMs not inside hotels, banks, airports or other locations with supplementary security measures poses serious risks. Maintain awareness of popular schemes to avoid falling victim to cybercrime.
- Businesses currently operating in Brazil should closely monitor their web-facing infrastructure for any potential vulnerability, as these are often exploited for opportunistic attacks and ransomware infections.

Active Alerts (3)

● Notice | Category

Belo Horizonte: Plan journeys accounting for localised disruption on 2 June during protest

01 June 2026 at 18:31

Location : Brazil

Category : Protest/Rally, Road disruption

Plan journeys accounting for localised disruption in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais state) on **2 June** during a protest. Local residents will gather to denounce a ceremony to bestow honorary citizenship of Belo Horizonte on Senator of Rio de Janeiro Flavio Bolsonaro. Participants will rally outside the [Municipal Chamber of Belo Horizonte](#) at **15.00** (local time), ahead of the ceremony, which will take place at the same venue at **16.30**. Expect a heightened security presence and road travel disruption in the vicinity.

Advice :

- Plan journeys accounting for localised disruption during the gathering.
- If due to travel near the protest, ensure routes are clear before setting out and allow additional time for journeys.
- Expect heightened security near the rally and follow all official directives. Leave an area at the first sign of unrest.
- Monitor our Brazil alerts for updates.

● Advisory | Category

Exercise caution, expect weather-related disruption in several states in coming days

01 June 2026 at 17:39

Location : Brazil

Category : Flood, Storm, Road disruption

Exercise caution and expect weather-related disruption in parts of northern states and the eastern states of Bahia and Sergipe **in the coming days**. The National Institute of Meteorology (INMET) has issued yellow (lowest on a three-tier scale, meaning 'potential danger') alerts for rainfall in several states, including Ampara, Roraima, Amazonas, Maranhao and Para, until **23.59** (local time) on **2 June**. Yellow warnings are also in place in parts of Bahia and Sergipe until **23.59** on **5 June**.

Advice :

- Consult the INMET [website](#) (in Portuguese) for information on prevailing weather conditions, and plan journeys accordingly. Ensure routes are clear before setting out.
- **We do not hold information on specific flights or other modes of transport.** Reconfirm bookings with relevant service providers. In case of a cancellation, your travel agent can assist with alternative arrangements.
- Disruption to essential services, such as electricity, may occur in affected areas. Charge all communications devices and keep backup batteries.
- Avoid floodwaters, which may be electrically charged due to underground or fallen power lines. Do not attempt to cross flooded roads. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and find an alternative route. If caught on a flooded road where the water is rising rapidly, exit your vehicle and seek higher ground.
- Monitor our Brazil alerts for updates.

More Detail :

Impact

Flooding has been reported in several areas of Bahia's capital Salvador, after the [Sexios river](#) overflowed on 1 June. This has affected the [Canela](#) area and caused traffic disruption on [Avenida Centenario](#). The Salvador Civil Defence has issued a warning for moderate to heavy rainfall, alongside the risk of flooding and landslides.

● Notice | Category

Sorocaba: Plan journeys on 1 June accounting for disruption during strike by public transport workers

29 May 2026 at 15:15

Location : Brazil

Category : Strike, Transport disruption

Plan journeys on **1 June** accounting for disruption during a strike in Sorocaba (Sao Paulo state) by unionised bus drivers. Members of the union have announced that they will continue to observe the strike over the coming days until their demands over salary-related issues are met. Seek alternative modes of transport on the day and allow extra time for journeys.

Advice :

- Liaise with local contacts for information on any strike-related protests in your area. Plan journeys in the affected area accounting for disruption.
 - **We do not hold information on specific transport schedules.** Contact the relevant service provider for more details.
 - Expect increased demand for alternative forms of transport and allow additional time for journeys. Reconfirm the status of routes prior to setting out.
 - Expect heightened security around related protests and follow all official directives.
 - Monitor our Brazil alerts for updates.
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Destination Guide for Brazil

Before You Travel

Visa Requirements

IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

British

Passport Required: Yes
Visa Required: No
Return Ticket Required: Yes

Australian

Passport Required: Yes
Visa Required: Yes
Return Ticket Required: Yes

Canadian

Passport Required: Yes
Visa Required: Yes
Return Ticket Required: Yes

USA

Passport Required: Yes
Visa Required: Yes
Return Ticket Required: Yes

Visas

Nationals of Australia, Canada and the US will require a visa prior to travel and can obtain an e-visa through this [portal](#). Nationals of Japan and the UK do not require visas for stays up to 90 days. Holders of passports issued by Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Singapore are exempt from visa requirements for tourism for up to 30 days within a one-year period. Citizens of MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) members and associate countries (including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela) can enter Brazil visa-free using a valid ID and passport.

(1) Nationals of EU countries do not require a visa for tourist or business stays of up to 90 days. Transit passengers who are eligible for visa free transit do not require a visa in if they remain in the international transit area and continue their journey to a third country on the same or first connecting flight, holding confirmed onward documentation and not leaving the airport (or passing immigration). Further information on country-specific visa exemptions can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [website](#).

The cost of tourist, business and transit visas varies according to nationality. Visas are normally valid for 90 days from the date of issue, though this is at the discretion of Brazilian immigration officials. Tourist visas can be used for multiple entries within the period of validity. They can also be extended up to a further 90 days, provided that the application is made at least two weeks before the expiration of the visa. Business travellers should apply to the federal police in Brazil for a visa extension. This must be done before the visa expires or there is a risk of deportation.

Visa processing takes five days for applications made in person and ten days for applications made by a third party. Additional time is required to process applications made by post. Nationals not referred to in the chart above should contact the embassy to check visa requirements.

Procedures

On arrival, foreign nationals must complete an immigration card, which has a carbon copy attached. The carbon copy must be presented to the immigration authorities on departure. Failure to do so may result in delays and possibly a fine when leaving Brazil. Business travellers bringing in laptop computers or mobile telephones do not face any special scrutiny.

Entry/Exit Requirements

Entry/Exit requirements

Business travellers must carry their passports, which should be valid for at least six months from the date of entry. All business travellers must be in possession of onward or return tickets and sufficient funds to cover their stay. The import or export of local and foreign currency is allowed up to the value of USD 10,000 or its equivalent - amounts exceeding this figure must be declared at customs.

Foreign nationals entering Brazil are subject to a duty-free allowance of USD 1,000 for arrivals by air or sea and USD 500 for arrivals by land or river. Goods exceeding these limits must be declared to the Federal Revenue authorities, and duties may apply. Business travellers should retain the documents provided by customs authority, which may need to be presented on departure.

Cultural Tips

CULTURAL ISSUES AND ETIQUETTE

General cultural tips

- Avoid making the sign of thumb and forefinger forming a circle with other fingers pointing up, known as the "okay" sign in some nations; it has an obscene meaning.
- A nationwide law formally bans smoking in government offices, bars, restaurants, hospitals, schools, libraries, theatres, buses, on any plane journey and in offices where more than one person works. Smoking is permitted only in designated areas.
- Unaccompanied businesswomen attract attention in smaller cities. They may, therefore, consider asking a local male contact to accompany them in public places such as restaurants and theatres.
- There are no legal restrictions for LGBTQ+ individuals. Societal attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community are often intolerant, and violence is sometimes directed towards its members.

Getting There

METHOD OF ARRIVAL

By air

Sao Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport ([GRU](#)) and Rio de Janeiro's Galeao (or Tom Jobim) International Airport ([GIG](#)) are the main aviation hubs. A third, Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira International Airport ([BSB](#)), serves the capital Brasília. Airports in Belém, Belo Horizonte, Campinas, Curitiba, Fortaleza, Recife, Manaus and Salvador operate limited international flights.

Although security at airports is adequate, its implementation is laid back and procedures are slow, as the infrastructure in most major airports is overloaded. Business travellers should be prepared for lengthy check-in procedures. They should report at the airport two hours prior for international departures and at least one hour ahead of domestic departures. Boarding gates could change before the announcement; business travellers should take note of related announcements. Foreign nationals should remain alert to the risk of theft and muggings at all times when in airport terminals and keep a close eye on laptop computers, briefcases, wallets and purses. Ignore approaches by people offering to change money or provide other services. There have been rare incidents of drugs being planted on unsuspecting passengers by traffickers hoping to avoid detection.

Airlines have variable security standards. You may wish to consult the European Commission's [website](#) for a list of airlines banned within the EU and the US Federal Aviation Administration's [website](#) for a database of aviation accidents and statistics.

By land

Brazil is bordered by Guyana, Venezuela, Suriname and French Guiana in the north; Colombia on the north-west; Bolivia and Peru in the west; Argentina and Paraguay in the south-west and Uruguay in the south. Direct and connecting bus links serve all the border points; however, considering the sheer size of the country, overland travel is time-consuming and inconvenient. The Brazilian cities of Porto Alegre, Florianopolis, Curitiba, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro can be reached via bus links from Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, though due to poor security at border areas, high incidence of crime and smuggling, and poor regulatory enforcement on drive and vehicle safety, it is preferable to travel by air rather than overland through most border crossings.

Argentina

Border crossings are located at: Tancredo Neves Bridge between Puerto Iguazú (Misiones province, Argentina) and Foz do Iguazú (Paraná state); Agustín P. Justo–Getúlio Vargas Bridge a road and rail-road bridge over the Uruguay River connects Paso de los Libres (Corrientes province, Argentina) and the municipality of Uruguaiana (Rio Grande do Sul state). The Integration Bridge connects the municipality of Santo Tome (Corrientes) and Sao Borja (Rio Grande do Sul).

Bolivia

Brazil is accessible from Bolivia through the following crossings: Puerto Quijarro (Santa Cruz department, Bolivia)-Corumbá (Mato Grosso do Sul state); San Matías (Santa Cruz department, Bolivia)-Caceres (Mato Grosso); a river crossing from Guayaramerin (Beni department, Bolivia)- Guajara- Mirim (Rondônia state); Cobija (Pando department, Bolivia)- Brasiléia (Acre state).

Colombia

There is only one land crossing between Brazil and Colombia, located between Leticia (Amazonas department, Colombia) and Tabatinga (Amazonas state).

French Guiana (France)

The Franco-Brazilian Binational bridge over the Oyapock River connects St. Georges (French Guiana) and Oiapoque (Amapa state).

Uruguay

Crossing points with Uruguay are located in Brazil's southern-most state of Rio Grande do Sul. These are: Chuy (Rocha department, Uruguay)-Chui (Rio Grande do Sul state); an international bridge on Jaguarão River links Rio Branco (Cerro Largo department, Uruguay) – Jaguarão (Rio Grande de Sul state); Isidoro Noblia (Cerro Largo department, Uruguay)-Aceguá (Rio Grande do Sul state); Rivera (Rivera department, Uruguay)-Santana do Livramento (Rio Grance de Sul state); Artigas (Artigas department, Uruguay)- Quarai (Rio Grande do Sul state) and Bella Union (Artigas department, Uruguay)- Barra do Quarai (Rio Grande do Sul state).

Guyana

The Takutu River Bridge links Lethem (Guyana) with Bon Fim (Roraima state).

Paraguay

Paraguay and Brazil are connected by a friendship bridge between Ciudad del Este (Alto Paraná department, Paraguay) and Foz do Iguazú (Paraná state); and another crossing at Pedro Juan Caballero (Amambay department, Paraguay)-Ponta Pora (Mato Grosso do Sul state) though due to high levels of crime and smuggling overland travel is not recommended.

Peru

From Peru, Brazil can be entered via Inapari (Peru) to Assis Brasil (Acre state).

Venezuela

The border crossing point is between Pacaraima (Roraima state) and Santa Elena de Uairen (Venezuela).

By sea

The main ports in Brazil that cater to international cruise liners and ships are Santos, Rio Grande, Rio de Janeiro, Itajaí, Paranaguá and Vitória.

Procedures

On arrival, foreign nationals must complete an immigration card, which has a carbon copy attached. The carbon copy must be presented to the immigration authorities on departure. Failure to do so may result in delays and possibly a fine when leaving Brazil. Business travellers bringing in laptop computers or mobile telephones do not face any special scrutiny.

Getting Around

BY AIR

Air travel is the most convenient method of travel between Brazilian cities. However, internal flights are expensive and are often busy at weekends. [LATAM Airlines](#) and [Gol](#) provide both domestic and international services. Other carriers include Azul and Trip.

BY ROAD

Road conditions vary widely across the country. State roads are paved and often in good condition, particularly in southern states, whereas federal, interstate roads (known as BR) are poorly maintained. Roads in rural areas are unpaved and potholed; these can become impassable during the rainy season.

Intercity roads, which generally have two lanes, are dangerous and clogged with truck traffic. Since driving standards are poor and traffic regulations are hardly followed, the country has an accordingly high rate of road traffic accidents. Significant travel disruption can be expected in all major cities during the holiday season, which usually last from December to February.

The most busy thoroughfares are the Anchieta-Imigrantes highway, which connects the city of São Paulo with Santos, Guarujá and other cities in the Baixada Santista area (São Paulo); the BR-101, which connects Rio de Janeiro city to the Região dos Lagos area on the northern coast of the state; and the BR-116 highway, also known as Via Dutra, which connects the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

Business travellers are advised not to self-drive due to heavy traffic, lack of parking and slightly confusing layout of the major cities. Foreign nationals should hire an experienced chauffeur who is familiar with the local environment and the security situation. Drivers can obtain up to date information on road conditions in Portuguese by visiting [here](#).

Foreign nationals nevertheless intending to self-drive should travel by day whenever possible. Driving at night can be especially hazardous due to poor lighting, erratic behaviour by truck and bus drivers and the risk of roadside assaults, especially in favelas. Always keep the doors locked and windows rolled up in urban centres. Business travellers should also exercise extreme caution when driving in cities, where drivers sometimes disregard red lights and other traffic signs. Traffic law enforcement varies from state to state, though there are plenty of speed limit radars in urban areas, most of which have warning signs.

The speed limit on major highways is 68 miles per hour (110kph). Foreign nationals can drive with their national driving licence for up to 180 days, after which they will require a Brazilian driving licence. Driving is on the right-hand side of the road and the use of seatbelts is mandatory. If involved in an accident in which casualties were incurred, foreign nationals are advised to remain at the scene until the police arrive. However, if only the vehicle is damaged, motorists should proceed directly to the nearby police station to report the incident for insurance purposes.

BY TAXI

Business travellers should use official/registered taxis, locally known as cooperativas (radio taxis) only. They should not be hailed on the streets but either arranged through a hotel or boarded from a taxi rank; at night, it is safer to order taxis over the phone. Few drivers speak English. The law mandates the use of a meter and therefore do not negotiate the fare. Foreign nationals using unofficial or 'rogue' taxis face a credible risk of robbery or 'express kidnap'. However, smartphone taxi application or ride sharing services like Uber are a reasonably safe and reliable form of transport for business travellers in major cities in Brazil.

BY TRAIN

Rail services are limited and are not a viable option for foreign nationals due to security concerns.

BY OTHER MEANS

Bus services are available, but are not recommended due to overcrowding, the risk of petty crime and poor safety standards.

Business Women

BUSINESSWOMEN

Gender discrimination in business meetings, on business-related social occasions, and in high-class hotels is minimal. It is increasingly common to encounter female executives in the service sector, as well as in politics, government and law. In most situations, women travellers face the same level of crime risk as men, but if walking alone, they are more likely to be targeted by snatch-and-grab thieves, who are often young children, looking for necklaces, wristwatches or handbags, that can easily be grabbed. Women should avoid taking taxis alone at night.

Working Week

WORKING WEEK

- Working Week: Monday to Friday.
- Office hours: 09.00-18.00.
- Banking hours: 10.00-16.00.

Language & Money

LANGUAGE

Brazilian Portuguese is the local language; this is different from European Portuguese in pronunciation and some vocabulary. There are many English speakers in business and federal government circles, but business travellers cannot rely on a contact's ability to speak English and should check in advance whether interpretation will be necessary.

MONEY

The national currency is the Brazilian real (plural: reais) and is denoted by R\$. Major credit cards are accepted in hotels and restaurants. Business travellers must submit an official identification document to obtain reais worth US\$3,000 or the equivalent amount in other currencies. Foreign nationals should keep the purchase receipts of reais as they may be asked to submit these when exchanging them into foreign currency.

ATMs are widespread, and generally accept cards with the Visa, Master Card, Amex or Cirrus symbols. People should avoid using ATMs on the street and at night due to the high risk of muggings and armed robberies. Monitored street ATMs are also vulnerable to credit card skimming.

Business travellers should only use ATMs located inside trusted public buildings, banks, shopping centres and hotels. It is advisable to periodically monitor records of credit and debit card expenditure due to the threat of skimming.

Tipping

TIPPING

It is common to tip if a service charge is not included in the bill. Most restaurants and bars include a 10% service charge on the bill. When not included on the bill, 10-15% is the general tipping rule.

Geography & Weather

CLIMATE

Climate overview

- Most of Brazil lies within the tropical zone.
- The north-eastern coastal and Amazon regions are hot and humid.
- The south-east marks the division between the tropical and temperate regions.
- In the south-eastern states of Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, the rainy season usually lasts from January to March.
- In the southern Amazon region, the rainy season begins in mid-October and lasts until March, while it continues until June in the north.
- Monitor the website of the [National Institute of Meteorology](#) for weather updates and warnings.

Flooding

- Sporadic spells of torrential rain occur during the rainy seasons, leading to flooding.
- Flash floods and landslides can occur during the rainy season.
- Disruption to overland journeys, including on main highways, and air travel, as well as to essential services, takes place in affected areas.
- While there has been a decrease in overall rain, the intensity of the rain has increased.
- An increase in sea levels has made cities along the Atlantic coast vulnerable to flooding and home displacement.
- Evacuation alerts (usually published with red alerts) can be announced by the authorities at short notice.
- On 24 February 2026, heavy rain in Minas Gerais triggered landslides and flooding that killed at least 30 people. The worst-affected cities were Juiz de Fora and Uba, where dozens went missing and hundreds were displaced.

Drought

- Brazil has experienced droughts in recent years, particularly during the dry season.
- Prolonged drought conditions have disrupted hydropower generation and caused water shortages, prompting authorities to impose rationing measures.

Wildfires

- Wildfires pose a risk during the dry season from May to September in the central areas of the country, including Brasilia.
- A decrease in rain and higher temperatures have increased the frequency of wildfires.
- Wildfires may prompt evacuation orders and disrupt traffic through an affected area.

Heatwaves

- Heatwaves mainly impact southern and south-eastern states, such as Espirito Santo, Rio Grande do Sul and Sao Paulo.
- Power outages and transport disruption are possible during heatwaves.

GEOGRAPHY

Brazil is the fifth-largest country in the world and the largest in South America. It covers over 47% of the continent's land mass and shares a border with every other country on the continent, with the exception of Chile and Ecuador. Almost half of its territory is covered by the basin of the Amazon River and its tributaries, a region that constitutes one of the world's largest rainforest ecosystems. The terrain includes dense forests in the northern regions; semi-arid areas along the north-east coast; mountains, hills and rolling plains in the south-west, including the Mato Grosso; and the coastal lowlands. Brasilia is the capital; other important cities include, Belém, Belo Horizonte, Campinas, Curitiba, Fortaleza, Macaé, Manaus, Natal, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and São Paulo. Brazil is administratively divided into 26 states and one federal district.

International Dialing & Power

DIALLING CODES

Country Code : 55

IDD Prefix (International Direct Dialling) : 00

NDD Prefix (National Direct Dialling) : 0

COMMUNICATIONS

The telecommunications network in the central-south region is extensive and modern, but parts of the north and north-eastern regions lack basic landline connections. Mobile 3G, 4G and 5G services are available. Major networks in the country are Telefonica, Telecom Italia and America Movil. Telephone cards can be bought from the many newspaper stalls. Telephone charges are among the world's highest. International phone charge cards bought at home can be useful. Internet access is extensive in major cities.

The postal system is reasonably reliable for domestic and international deliveries, but delays can occur. Courier services are advisable for important documents.

Information Security

Brazil is consistently at the top of global cybercrime rankings, particularly in regard to botnets, banking fraud and financial malware. The growing frequency and advanced application of cyber threats affect casual users, businesses and government networks. Brazilian cybercriminals are sophisticated, regularly employ malware and steal billions of dollars annually despite government efforts to stop them. Some debit/credit card thefts have been attributed to hacking. Recent cyber incidents include a major 2025 breach of the PIX instant payment system and attacks targeting financial institutions and research networks. In response, the authorities have strengthened cybersecurity oversight through the General Data Protection Law (LGPD), as well as new central bank security measures for financial institutions.

According to the Brazilian Federation of Banks, the majority of financial transactions in Brazil are via internet-connected devices, providing an easy target for cyber theft.

Advice

- Ensure all devices have the latest software versions and relevant security patches are installed.
- Ensure all devices you bring to the country are well secured, with strong passwords; storage devices should have full disc encryption.
- Avoid using public wi-fi networks; these are unencrypted and insecure and sometimes created and controlled by cybercriminal groups. A virtual private network (VPN) service is an option to increase mobile security while travelling.
- Ensure you are connected to the correct website by checking the URL and domain name; ensure the connection is secure with valid certification. Exercise caution when dealing with emails and attachments from an unknown source.
- Monitor all banking information following any sales transactions to ensure credit/debit cards and personal information are not compromised.
- Withdrawing money from ATMs not inside hotels, banks, airports or other locations with supplementary security measures poses serious risks.
- Run a thorough check of all devices upon your return and consider changing account, device and administrator passwords upon returning home, especially if you suspect that your device was tampered with or exposed during travel.

- Businesses operating in Brazil should closely monitor their web-facing infrastructure for any potential vulnerability, as these are often exploited for opportunistic attacks and ransomware infections.

ELECTRICITY

Calendar

Holidays & Security Dates

2026

07 Sep Independence Day

20 Sep Rio Grande do Sul State Day

12 Oct Our Lady of Aparecida

15 Nov Proclamation of the Republic

20 Nov Black Awareness Day

30 Nov Evangelical Day

2027

01 Jan New Year's Day

In many countries, if this holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, a public holiday is declared for the following Monday.

20 Jan San Sebastian Day

21 Apr Tiradentes' Day

01 May Labour Day

Destination Guide for Brazil

Medical Overview

Medical Care

Variable

Standard of Health Care

Let International SOS assist you.

International SOS will assist you to find appropriate emergency, inpatient or outpatient care, will provide language assistance, may be able to pay your medical expenses and will assist with evacuation when required.

Inpatient care

Private hospitals in Sao Paulo provide the highest level of medical care in Brazil.

Selected private hospitals in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Salvador, and many of the major cities, provide medical care of an international standard. Many doctors have completed training outside of Brazil and speak English.

Public hospitals are generally not recommended anywhere in Brazil. They may offer a lower standard of medical care, may have shortages of medical and nursing staff, medication and equipment and have few English-speaking staff.

Emergency Response

Emergency Response

Use a private vehicle to reach medical care.

Public ambulance services are not recommended, especially as emergency service calls are answered in Portuguese. In addition, public ambulances are required to take patients to the closest public hospital - which, with a few exceptions, may not provide the best available standard of care - and may experience delays in heavy traffic conditions.

Private ambulances in major cities may be able to provide emergency transport. If there is any delay, take the patient directly to the nearest selected private hospital.

Medical Contact

Emergency Numbers, hospital and clinic contact information

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance : 192

Fire service : 193

Police : 194 (civil police) / 190 (military police)

Hospitals & Clinics

Clinica Sao Vicente

Rua Joao Borges 204 Gavea

55 2122723030, 55 2125294422, 55 2130034330

rnw@rnw.com.br, recepemerg@clinicasaovicente.com.br

Hospital Copa D'Or

Rua Figueiredo de Magalhaes, 875 Copacabana

55 2125453600

rnw@rnw.com.br

Hospital Samaritano Botafogo

Rua Bambina 98 Botafogo
55 1130039228, 55 1138215300, 55 1138215598, 55 2134441000
sac@samaritano.com.br, pre.internacao@samaritano.com.br, niam@amil.com.br

Hospital Sirio Libanes - Unidad Bela Vista

Rua Dona Adma Jafet, 115 Bela Vista
55 1133940200
international@hsl.org.br

Vaccinations

Yellow fever vaccination recommended but not required

Hepatitis A

Recommended for all travellers and international assignees, especially groups at higher risk including:

- long-term and frequent visitors.
- adventurous travellers who travel to more remote locations or stay in areas with poor sanitation.
- gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (see [US CDC](#)).
- people who use illicit drugs.
- those with liver disease.

Hepatitis B

Recommended for most travellers and international assignees, especially:

- For long-term or frequent visitors, and health-care workers.
 - For adventurous travellers who travel to more remote locations.
 - If possibility of new sexual partner, needle sharing, acupuncture, dental work, body piercing or tattooing during visit.
- Many travel health professionals recommend hepatitis B vaccination for all travellers, regardless of destination.

Measles

- Recommended for all travellers and international assignees.
- All travellers should be up to date with their measles vaccination (schedule differs by country). Vaccination for adults is available as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), two doses given at least four weeks apart are required.

Some individuals [cannot be vaccinated](#) due to certain health conditions.

Rabies

Consider for certain travellers, especially:

- For international assignees and long-term visitors.
- For children who tend to play with animals and may not admit to being bitten or scratched.
- If you are travelling to a location where quality medical care may not be available immediately after being bitten/scratched by an animal.
(Unvaccinated people need immunoglobulin within 24 hours of an animal injury, and this medication is scarce in some countries. If you are pre-vaccinated, you do not need this immunoglobulin after an injury.)
- If contact with dogs, monkeys or other potentially rabies-carrying animals is likely.
Jogging increases your risk of dog bite.

Typhoid fever

Recommended for all travellers and international assignees.

Yellow fever

Although Brazil does not require proof of vaccination to enter the country, there is a risk of yellow fever in some areas. Vaccination is **recommended** to prevent infection if travelling to risk areas and is **required** to enter certain countries after having been in Brazil.

Vaccination is **recommended** for all travellers \geq 9 months of age, who will visit the following risk areas:

- all of the states of: Acre, Amapa, Amazonas, Distrito Federal (including the capital 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.
- Some areas of Bahia State.
- Iguazu Falls.

Vaccination is *NOT recommended* for travellers whose itineraries are limited to the cities of Fortaleza and Recife or to areas not listed above.

See the [map for vaccination recommendations](#).

For onward travel: a vaccination certificate may be **required** upon entry at your next destination, including your home country. See the details in the relevant location guide.

(Discuss vaccination with your travel health professional well in advance of your trip. The certificate becomes valid 10 days after vaccination and is valid for the life of the traveller. Note that vaccination requirements may change at any time; check with the relevant embassy or consulate for your destination. Occasionally border authorities request a valid vaccination certificate although it may not be required under the official policy.)

Routine Vaccinations

COVID-19

All travellers should ensure they are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. Recommendations vary between countries.

Influenza

Annual vaccination is recommended. Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe disease, including::

- Young children
- Pregnant individuals
- People 65 years and older
- People with underlying health conditions

Measles-Mumps-Rubella

Vaccinations against measles, mumps, and rubella are routine in childhood, and are usually available as a combined vaccine "MMR".

Everyone should be immune to these diseases before travel.

There are outbreaks of measles in many locations.

If you are unsure of your immunity, consult your doctor well in advance of travel.

See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

Polio

Vaccination against polio is routine in childhood in many countries. See routine childhood vaccination schedules for [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), the [USA](#), and the [UK](#).

All adults should ensure they are immune to the disease before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional. You may need a *primary vaccination* or a *booster*. Booster recommendations vary by country.

Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis

Vaccinations against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis are routine in childhood.

See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to these diseases before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional. You may need a *primary vaccination* or *booster*. Booster recommendations vary by country.

Varicella

Varicella (chickenpox) vaccinations are included in the routine childhood immunization schedule of some countries. See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)
All adults should ensure they are immune to varicella before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional.

Health Threats

Known health threats for this country

Hantaviruses

Hantaviruses are a group of viruses that belong to the *bunyaviridae* family. They can cause two different types of illness in humans: Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS) involves the kidneys while Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) involves the respiratory system. Regardless of which illness they cause, hantaviruses are carried by infected rodents. Virus is present in the animal's saliva, urine and faeces. Droplets of these excretions can contaminate the air in a process called aerosolisation. Humans become sick when they inhale the virus.

The incubation period of HPS is not positively known. Limited data suggests that people become sick within one to eight weeks after being exposed to the virus. The incubation period for HFRS is usually 1 to 2 weeks after exposure but could be as long as 8 weeks.

Initial symptoms of HPS include fatigue, fever, and muscle aches. About 50 percent of HPS patients also experience headache, dizziness, and abdominal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, pain). The "late stage" symptoms of HPS are cough/shortness of breath and a feeling of overall tightness in the chest. Heartbeat and breathing may both become rapid at this stage of illness. Symptoms of HFRS appear suddenly and include intense headaches, back and abdominal pain, fever, chills, nausea and blurred vision. As the disease progresses, patients may develop flushing of the face, inflammation, redness of the eyes or a rash. Later symptoms include bleeding from the skin, conjunctiva of the eye, and mouth. In the most severe cases renal failure develops.

There is no specific treatment or cure. Patients are treated supportively, meaning their symptoms are addressed even though the disease itself cannot be cured. Patients usually require hospitalisation in an intensive care unit. An antiviral medication, ribavirin, may be used to treat the HFRS although its effectiveness has not been proven in HPS.

There is no vaccine for HPS. Vaccines against HFRS are being used in many Asian countries. The best way to avoid infection is to eliminate rodents from your living space and worksite, and/or avoid contact with them. Keep food in tightly sealed containers, clean dishes immediately after use, do not leave pet food out all day, and seal holes to the outside – generally, make your environment inhospitable to rodents.

Cases of HPS, including deaths, are reported annually. Risk is present across the country.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease commonly present in animals. While these animals often show no sign of disease, they can excrete the bacteria in their urine and other bodily fluids (except saliva), which contaminates water and soil in the environment. Humans become infected primarily through contact with that contaminated water and soil.

Infection can be treated with antibiotic medications. Severe disease can cause liver, kidney, heart and respiratory problems as well as meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord). If left untreated, leptospirosis can be fatal.

The best way to prevent leptospirosis is to consider water safety when swimming, bathing, boating or wading. Avoid water that might be contaminated with animal urine. If unsure whether the water is contaminated and contact is unavoidable, wear protective clothing such as thigh-high waterproof boots and cover all wounds with waterproof dressings. Wash thoroughly after potential exposure.

Cases of leptospirosis are reported annually in Brazil. Outbreaks are more likely in urban and low-lying areas, especially where rodent infestation is prevalent. Risk is generally higher following heavy rainfall or flooding, which is most common in the rainy season (October to March). Infections are also common in agricultural and livestock workers.

Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that is almost always fatal but is preventable with correct post-exposure treatment. People are infected through the bite, scratch, or lick to broken skin by an infected animal. Any mammal, including dogs, cats, bats, monkeys, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, jackals, seals and other marine mammals can carry the virus. Globally, most human infections occur through dog bites.

It is imperative to seek treatment promptly after a potential exposure (bite, scratch, lick to broken skin). Treatment is highly effective in preventing rabies, but is not readily available in some locations.

Following an animal / bat bite or scratch or lick (on broken skin) :

- The wound should be immediately cleaned, with soap and water for at least 15 minutes. Apply an antiseptic such as povidone-iodine if available.
- Medical advice should be obtained promptly to **assess the need for preventive treatment, even if previously vaccinated. This is life-saving.**
- Treatment is with post-exposure vaccination (a series of injections required). Rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) is also required if not previously vaccinated, and is injected into and around the wounds. Note that bat bites are very small, and sometimes are not obvious. Some health authorities advise that rabies post-exposure treatment should be given if a bat was in the room while a person was asleep even if there is no obvious bat bite or scratch.

Prevention is through avoiding contact with animals, and vaccination.

Pre-exposure vaccination is often recommended for visitors to destinations where rabies is common, especially if rabies treatment and quality medical care are not readily available. Pre-exposure vaccination is also important for children, since they may not tell adults they have been bitten/scratched.

Post-exposure vaccination must be given soon after a bite or scratch, or lick to broken skin, **even if pre-exposure vaccination has been completed.** Fewer doses are required if pre-exposure vaccination has been completed. Rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) is also required if not previously vaccinated.

Rabies is found in bats, wild animals and domestic animals, including cats and dogs, in Brazil. While the rabies vaccine is typically available, quality rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) may not be as readily available (HRIG is required for treatment after exposure to rabies in those without pre-exposure vaccination). There is a risk to some travellers, and pre-exposure vaccination is recommended for specific travellers and assignees.

American Trypanosomiasis (Chagas disease)

Also known as Chagas disease, American Trypanosomiasis is transmitted by a blood-sucking bug, the triatomine (also known as the "kissing bug"). An infected bug deposits faeces on the victim's skin, often at night. Infection occurs when the faeces or urine are rubbed into a bite, an open cut, the eyes or mouth. Chagas disease can also be transmitted in other ways, including through blood or organ donation from infected donors, and contaminated food and drinks.

The initial stages of the infection may go unnoticed or only be mild. Local swelling may appear at the site of infection, and some people get a characteristic purplish swelling around the lids of one eye. Other symptoms include fever, body aches and headaches, diarrhoea, vomiting, breathing difficulty and swollen lymph nodes. Chronic infections may involve the heart, gastrointestinal system or brain, and can be fatal. No vaccine is available. Treatment with anti-parasitic medicines is most effective soon after infection. Prevent infection by avoiding insect bites and choosing safe food and water. Choose well-constructed facilities to sleep indoors and use a bed net.

The overall risk to travellers is low, except for those staying in poor-quality housing, particularly in the Amazon region. Most states have eliminated Chagas disease, with the exception of areas in the north of the country, where cases and deaths are reported each year. Previous outbreaks have been associated with consuming acai and sugar cane juice.

Chikungunya

Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted through mosquito bites, not from person to person. Common symptoms include fever, joint pains and swelling, rash, muscle pain, nausea, headache, conjunctivitis ("pink eye"), and fatigue. Symptoms usually resolve within ten days, however, in some cases joint pain and fatigue may persist for months or years. Rarely the brain, eyes, heart, and kidneys can be affected and fatalities have been reported. People at higher risk for severe illness include newborns infected at the time of birth, the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. There is no specific medication to treat the disease. Symptoms are managed with rest and pain relief medications. Aspirin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (such as ibuprofen) should be avoided until dengue fever has been ruled out, and only used under medical supervision. Prevention is through preventing mosquito bites. Vaccines against chikungunya are available in several countries. The first locally-acquired cases were reported in 2014. Since then, thousands of cases are reported each year. The most affected area is the Northeast region, although risk is present in many Brazilian cities.

Peak transmission usually occurs from January through June.

Dengue fever

Dengue, or "break-bone" fever, is a viral disease of the tropics and sub-tropics. It is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes that bite during the daytime and are found in and around human habitation. Transmission from mother to child is possible during pregnancy or birth. Symptoms include high fever, severe headaches, joint and muscle pain, nausea and vomiting. A rash often follows. The acute illness can last up to ten days, but complete recovery can take two to four weeks. Occasionally, a potentially fatal form of dengue called severe dengue (previously known as dengue haemorrhagic fever or DHF) occurs. Severe dengue is more likely in infants and those who are pregnant, as well as people who have been infected in the past and are infected again with a different strain of dengue. When a pregnant person is infected, there is a risk of pre-term birth, low birth weight and foetal distress. Approximately 3% of severe dengue cases are likely to be fatal. Prevention is through avoiding mosquito bites. Dengue vaccine is available in some countries. Authorities have different eligibility and recommendation for use.

Dengue transmission occurs year-round. The risk of contracting dengue is considered very low above 2,000m (6,560 feet). Hundreds of thousands of cases are reported annually.

Leishmaniasis

Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by a parasite that can infect humans, dogs, rodents and other small animals. It is transmitted by sandflies that bite mainly between dusk and dawn and can occur in both rural and urban environments. Sandflies breed quickly in unsanitary conditions, and the spread of the disease is exacerbated by war, chronic food shortages and urbanisation activities like deforestation and building of dams and irrigation systems, changes in temperature, heavy rainfall and population movement. The disease can manifest in one of the three forms, cutaneous (is the most common form and causes skin ulcers), mucocutaneous (is a rare form which affects the inner parts of the nose and mouth) or visceral (which is the more severe form and can lead to death). There is no vaccine or drug to prevent leishmaniasis.

Prevention

The only way to avoid leishmaniasis is to prevent sandfly bites.

- Minimise outdoor activities from dusk to dawn- this is when sand flies are most active.
- Use protective clothing and insect repellent.
- Consider using an insecticide-treated bed net with *fine mesh* if there are sandflies in your living quarters. The standard bed nets used to prevent malaria are not effective, as sandflies are about one-third the size of mosquitoes and can fly through the malaria nets.
- Note that sandflies are small and do not make noise while flying. This makes it difficult to determine whether they are in your environment. Their bites cause mild symptoms and might not be noticed.

Cases of all three forms (cutaneous, mucocutaneous, and visceral) are reported annually. Risk is present throughout the country but is most common in the Amazon and northeast regions.

Malaria

Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes that usually bite from dusk to dawn. Symptoms can develop as early as seven days or as late as several months after exposure. Early malaria symptoms are flu-like and can include fever, sweats/chills, head and body aches, and generally feeling tired and unwell. People also sometimes feel nauseous and vomit or have diarrhoea. Untreated, malaria can cause serious complications like anaemia, seizures, mental confusion, kidney failure and coma. It can be fatal.

Follow the ABCDEs to minimise malarial risk:

A: Awareness - Be **Aware** of the risk, the symptoms and malaria prevention.

B: Bite Prevention - Avoid being **Bitten** by mosquitoes, especially between dusk and dawn.

C: Chemoprophylaxis - If prescribed for you, use **Chemoprophylaxis** (antimalarial medication) to prevent infection and if infected reduce the risk of severe malaria.

D: Diagnosis - Immediately seek **Diagnosis** and treatment if a fever develops one week or more after being in a malarial area (up to one year after departure).

E: Emergency - Carry an **Emergency** Standby Treatment (EST) kit if available and recommended (this is the kit which contains malaria treatment).

Malaria is present year-round in all areas of Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Rondônia, and Roraima including the urban areas of: Boa Vista, Cruzeiro do Sul, Macapa, Manaus, Porto Velho and Rio Branco. The risk is also present in Maranhão, Mato Grosso and Pará, but cases are rare in the capital cities of these states - São Luis, Cuiabá and Belém, respectively. For the states of Espírito Santo, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Tocantins the risk is mainly present in the rural and forested areas.

There is very low risk in rest of the states.

There is no risk of malaria in the cities of Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, or in Iguaçu Falls.

Prevention:

- mosquito bite avoidance
- medication: consult your travel health doctor for an individual recommendation. Some authorities recommend preventive medication if visiting the risk areas

Mayaro virus

Mayaro (also called Mayaro fever) is a viral illness spread through mosquito bites. The Mayaro virus probably lives in monkeys and other non-human primates, and possibly birds. Mosquitoes pass the disease from these animals to humans. Symptoms of a sudden fever with chills, muscle pains, body aches and joint pain usually develop one to twelve days after someone is bitten by an infected mosquito. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and a rash may occur. People usually recover completely in three to five days. Sometimes joint pain persists for months. There is no treatment and no vaccination to prevent the disease.

Prevention the disease by preventing mosquito bites.

The virus was first reported in 1955. Sporadic cases have been reported from areas near the Amazon rain forest, and in three of the nation's five regions (North, Central and Central West.) There have also been cases among travellers who have returned to their home country.

Onchocerciasis

Onchocerciasis, also known as "river blindness", is caused by parasitic worms. The disease is mainly found mainly in parts of tropical Africa, though several non-African countries are also affected. Humans contract the disease via fly bites. Once introduced into the human body, the worms enter the bloodstream and mature in nodules under the skin. Later, large numbers of microscopic larvae (called microfilariae) are released. These migrate within the body.

Prevent insect bites to avoid infection.

Risk is highest in Amazonas and Roraima.

Oropouche fever

Oropouche fever is an illness caused by the Oropouche virus (OROV). OROV is transmitted to humans primarily through the bites of infected mosquitoes and biting midges (small flies). The possibility of transmission to the fetus during pregnancy, leading to miscarriages and birth defects, is being evaluated. Symptoms include a sudden fever, headache, muscle and joint pain. Rarely, the disease can cause aseptic meningitis, which is the inflammation (swelling) of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord. Recovery usually occurs in about a week, although symptoms sometimes persist for a month or longer. There is no specific treatment available. No vaccine exists to prevent the disease. Prevent illness by avoiding insect bites.

Oropouche is endemic to the Amazon Basin. Outbreaks have been reported in both rural and urban areas of Brazil. In early 2024, a large outbreak occurred in the Amazon region with local transmission also detected in non-endemic regions, including Bahia, Espirito Santo and Piauí states.

West Nile Virus

Primarily a disease of birds, West Nile virus (WNV) can infect humans. The most common route for a human infection is via mosquitoes. The mosquito feeds on an infected bird or other animal, then bites a human and introduces the virus into their body.

Most people who get WNV develop no symptoms. Of the 20 percent who do get ill, most develop mild symptoms 3-14 days after being bitten: fever, head and body ache, nausea and vomiting. Sometimes the lymph nodes swell or a rash appears on the trunk.

In fewer than one percent of all human cases, the person develops a serious, possibly fatal, infection. Symptoms may include high fever, headache, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, tremors and paralysis. The brain and membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord may get inflamed, which can cause coma and death. Patients who recover from a serious WNV infection may suffer permanent brain damage.

There is no specific treatment for the disease, or vaccine to protect against it. To avoid infection, prevent mosquito bites in areas where the virus circulates. Wear long sleeves and long pants, and use insect repellents.

Risk is present in the states of Piauí and Tocantins.

Yellow fever

Yellow fever is caused by a virus spread through mosquito bites. The symptoms range from a mild flu-like illness to a severe haemorrhagic fever with organ failure. It is prevented through vaccination and preventing mosquito bites.

Vaccination provides life-long protection. It is only available through designated yellow fever vaccination clinics. They will issue a signed and stamped International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) which becomes valid 10 days after the vaccination, and is valid for the lifetime of the person vaccinated.

Many countries require proof of vaccination for entry. If proof is not available, authorities may deny entry, mandate vaccination or may monitor your health. Some countries require proof of vaccination when departing. Always check the relevant location guide, or ask the consulate or embassy for the requirements, several weeks prior to your trip.

Much of Brazil is considered at risk for yellow fever transmission:

- All of the states of: Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Distrito Federal (including the capital city of Brasília), Espírito Santo, Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraná, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondonia, Roraima, Santa Catarina, São Paulo and Tocantins.
- Some areas of Bahia State.
- Iguazu Falls.

In 2017 and 2018, an extensive outbreak occurred involving Minas Gerais and several other states. Yellow fever risk areas expanded during this outbreak.

Vaccine coverage is usually between 80 and 95% of the target population, but dropped to below 50% in 2014. Due to increased disease activity, Brazil's government has ramped up vaccination for residents.



Zika virus

Zika is a viral disease, mostly transmitted to people by mosquito bites, but also from one person to another through sexual contact. Symptoms can be mild and include fever, rash, muscle and joint pains, red eyes (conjunctivitis). However, infection during pregnancy can cause severe complications, including miscarriage and permanent birth defects (congenital Zika syndrome). No specific treatment or vaccine is available. Prevent infection through mosquito bite avoidance. Prevent sexual transmission through condom use or abstinence.

The virus was first detected in May 2015 in the northeast. Cases are reported annually. Risk is present in many areas of Brazil, although the mosquitoes which transmit Zika are not likely to be found 2,000 metres (6,561 feet) elevation. Cases have been confirmed in all 27 states. Some Zika associated birth defects have been reported.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious bacterial disease. The bacteria can be coughed or sneezed into the air by an infected person. Most people who contract TB have had prolonged, close, exposure to an infected person. Family members, close friends and healthcare workers are most at risk. People with compromised immune systems, babies and children, those travelling to or living in countries with high TB rates, smokers and those who consume alcohol or other substances and those residing in group accommodation (such as prisons or nursing homes) are also at higher risk.

Active TB causes a variety of symptoms that are sometimes vague, but often include prolonged cough, chest pain, weakness, lack of appetite, weight loss, fever, chills, night sweats, tiredness, and lack of energy. Latent (inactive) TB causes no symptoms. Tuberculosis is diagnosed by evaluating a patient's risk factors for exposure to TB, clinical symptoms, chest X-rays, CT scan, tuberculin skin testing and examination of sputum or secretions which may contain the bacteria.

Most strains of TB can be treated with antimicrobial drugs. Up to four different types of medicines may be used together to treat a patient. If left untreated, active TB can be life-threatening. Some forms of TB have become resistant to drugs (MDR TB), and some forms are extensively resistant to drugs (XDR TB). These forms are hard to treat.

A vaccine, Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) is available. It protects children against severe TB. Some authorities recommend vaccinating children up to 16 years old or for travellers who may live or travel for three months or more to places with higher rates of TB infection or with the risk of multi-drug resistant TB. It must be discussed on an individual basis with your own health care provider.

Avoid enclosed or crowded environments where there are known TB patients, such as hospitals and prisons, whenever possible. People who must enter such places, such as health care workers, should wear specially fitted personal respiratory protective masks (such as the N-95 mask). Other ways to prevent the spread of TB include early identification, isolation and

treatment of active cases, spreading awareness of symptoms to ensure people seek medical care early and ensuring that people on treatment take their medication and complete the entire course.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated Brazil a "high burden country" for tuberculosis. The country falls in the "lower-moderate" incidence category for tuberculosis with an estimated 49 cases per 100,000 population in 2024. BCG vaccination is given at birth and is included in the country's immunisation schedule.

Altitude

Altitude illness is a potentially fatal condition that can affect people who normally live at a low altitude and travel to higher altitudes. It can occur from elevations of 1,500 meters onwards but is more common at elevations above 2,500 meters (8,000 feet).

People most at risk are those who have experienced altitude illness before, people who have heart or lung problems and people under the age of 50. There are three different types of altitude illness: Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). AMS is the most common and mild form of altitude illness. HACE and HAPE are more severe. HACE is a medical emergency and if not treated and managed quickly, can result in coma and death. Management of altitude illnesses involves immediate descent and oxygen treatment. Most people who are affected, even those who develop HACE or HAPE, recover completely if moved to a lower elevation. There are medicines that can be administered by trained medical professionals.

Anyone travelling to high altitudes, especially higher than 2,500 meters, should be aware of and recognise the symptoms of altitude illness. See your travel health professional before departure, for individual advice on preventive measures, especially if you have ever suffered altitude sickness in the past, or if you have an underlying medical condition.

There are peaks above 2,500m in the mountains north of coastal areas in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. The country's highest point is Pico de Neblina (2,995m / 9,826ft) on the border with Venezuela.

Cutaneous Larva Migrans

Cutaneous Larva Migrans (CLM) is a skin infection caused by parasites known as hookworms. Animals such as dogs and cats host these parasites and shed the parasite eggs in their faeces. The eggs then hatch into larvae. Transmission occurs through direct skin contact with contaminated sand or soil. The larva penetrates the outermost layers of the skin. A pricking or itching sensation may be experienced when the larva penetrates the skin. Within a few hours, a rash can develop at the entry point. As the larva moves, creeping tracks or snake-like reddish tracks will develop. Severe itching and mild swelling may also occur. CLM usually resolves itself without any treatment. Some anti-parasitic medications may be used to shorten the duration of infection.

There is no medication to prevent the infection. Avoid walking barefoot at the beach and avoid direct skin contact with infected sand or soil. Use a clean towel or mat to sit or lie on the sand.

Soil and sand samples from multiple locations in Brazil have shown to contain hookworm larvae. Research has also found many local cats and dogs to be infected with the parasite. Travellers are advised to avoid walking barefoot to reduce the risk of infection.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a viral disease that causes liver inflammation. The virus is present in the faeces of an infected person. It spreads through contaminated food and water and is common in areas with poor sanitation. Person-to-person spread also occurs, when the virus is inadvertently transferred into the mouth, including during sexual activity. People at higher risk of infection include men who have sex with men, illicit drug users and people with liver disease.

Not everyone gets symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they begin two to four weeks or more after infection and can last for weeks or months. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain/discomfort, jaundice (yellow colour of the skin and eyes), dark urine, clay-coloured stool, joint pain and itching. Many infected people suffer only a mild illness. Most cases recover fully after four or more weeks. However, for some, the disease can be severe, and occasionally is fatal. There is no specific treatment and cases are managed through supportive therapy.

Prevention is through vaccination, attention to hygiene, and access to safe food and water.

Travellers diarrhoea

Travellers' diarrhoea is the most common travel-related illness. It usually occurs within the first week away from home. It is spread through contaminated food and water.

Prevention is through choosing safe food and water, and paying attention to hygiene. Select food that is thoroughly cooked while fresh and served hot. Avoid undercooked or raw meat, fish or shellfish. Avoid salad and raw vegetables unless you can wash them with clean (treated) water and you peel them yourself.

Unless you are certain that the tap water is drinkable - choose bottled water and beverages, avoid ice.

Typhoid fever

Typhoid fever is a serious infection caused by *Salmonella typhi* bacteria. People are infected through ingesting contaminated food or water. Choosing safe food and water and vaccination reduces the risk of developing the disease.

Symptoms usually begin one to three weeks after exposure. Although typhoid fever is often called a diarrhoeal disease, some patients do not have diarrhoea. Persistent, high fever is typical. Other early symptoms are flu-like: body aches and pains, weakness, loss of appetite and a continuous dull headache. A rash with pink spots may appear on the chest and abdomen of some patients. In severe cases, perforation of the bowel can cause severe bleeding or infection in the abdomen, which can be fatal.

Typhoid is treated with antibiotics. However there is a growing problem of antibiotic resistance. "Extensively drug-resistant" (XDR) typhoid is present in some locations and does not respond to many of the antibiotics which are usually used against typhoid, making preventive measures even more important. Vaccination is recommended for people travelling to locations where typhoid is consistently present.

Cases, including deaths, are reported annually.

HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and STIs

HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are spread by contact with bodily fluids (especially blood and semen).

- unprotected sex,
- needle sharing during IV drug use, or
- unsafe blood or medical/dental instruments.

Genital herpes (HSV), genital warts (HPV), gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and most other sexually transmitted diseases are spread by genital contact.

Prevention:

- In many countries, hepatitis B is now a routine childhood immunisation and need not be repeated. All non-immune travellers should consider vaccination.
- Always use new condoms (preferably brought from your home country).
- IV drug users should not share needles.
- Avoid having tattoos or piercings done.
- In healthcare settings, make sure that needles and syringes are sterile and not shared between patients.
- Call International SOS or your corporate medical department if you are hospitalised.
- Be aware of your risk when assisting anyone with an injury. Protect yourself from contact with bodily fluids.
- Seek medical attention within 24 hours if you accidentally come into contact with someone else's bodily fluids.

Schistosomiasis

Schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia, is a disease caused by parasitic worms that live in freshwater lakes, rivers and rice paddies. It can penetrate the skin of persons who are wading, swimming, bathing or washing in contaminated water. There is no vaccine.

To prevent infection:

- Avoid swimming or wading in fresh water in countries where schistosomiasis occurs.
- Using soap during bathing *reduces* the risk of infection, as does a vigorous rubdown with a towel immediately after contact with contaminated water. Do *not* rely on these methods to prevent schistosomiasis.
- Heat bath water for five minutes at 50°C (122°F).
- Water held in a storage tank for at least 48 hours should be safe.

Risk is present throughout the country, particularly in the northeast. Cases and deaths are reported annually.

Food & Water

Drink bottled water. Care with food.

Food Risk

Food-borne illness is common. To reduce your risk:

- Food served in larger hotels and well-known restaurants should be safe.
- Busier restaurants may be safer as they are more likely to serve freshly cooked food.
- Always choose food that has been freshly cooked and is served hot.
- Avoid food that has been stored warm – such as in a "bain marie."
- Avoid raw foods, shellfish, pre-peeled fruit and salad.
- Fruit that you wash and peel yourself is safe.

- Avoid street vendors and market food because the standard of hygiene may be low and food may not be fresh.

Water and Beverages

Tap water is unsafe.

- Drink only bottled or boiled water or carbonated drinks.
 - Avoid ice, as it may have been made from unsafe water.
-

Destination Guide for Brazil

Security Overview

Personal Security

STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Travel to Brazil requires standard security precautions, including ensuring that foreign nationals unfamiliar with the local risk environment avoid densely populated areas of major urban centres where risks are rated as HIGH.
- Violent crime poses a significant risk to business travellers. Exercise caution at all times and maintain awareness of the local geography, taking care to avoid HIGH-risk districts.
- Criminals are commonly armed and will attack if they are resisted. If targeted, avoid doing anything to resist or antagonise the assailant.
- Short-term 'express' kidnapping poses a risk to business travellers. Do not accept food or drink from strangers, avoid using ATMs outside banks or after dark and avoid displaying items of real or perceived wealth. International assignees are advised to vary routines, choose a modest model of vehicle and maintain vigilance for signs of surveillance.
- Avoid travelling through overland border crossings due to poor security and the high incidence of crime and smuggling.
- Public transport is not sufficiently secure for business travellers. Use only official taxis or hire a private vehicle and driver. Signage is poor and driving standards are variable; it is inadvisable to self-drive unless familiar with local conditions.
- Avoid demonstrations, rallies and picket lines due to a credible risk of clashes between demonstrators and the security forces. Do not attempt to cross picket lines as this may prompt a hostile reaction.
- Closely monitor all banking account information following any sales transactions in Brazil to ensure credit/debit cards and personal information are not compromised.
- Withdrawing money from ATMs not inside hotels, banks, airports or other locations with supplementary security measures poses serious risks. Maintain awareness of popular schemes to avoid falling victim to cybercrime.
- Businesses currently operating in Brazil should closely monitor their web-facing infrastructure for any potential vulnerability, as these are often exploited for opportunistic attacks and ransomware infections.

Crime

Occurs in many areas, sometimes violent

CRIME

Crime is widespread in major cities as a result of prolific gang- and drug-related activity instigated by unemployment, the easy availability of firearms, poverty and other social conditions. While violent crime in major urban centres is concentrated around favelas, affluent and tourist areas are not immune from criminal activity, including during daylight hours.

Opportunistic crime/petty theft

Business travellers and foreign nationals face a high risk from street and opportunistic crime, such as purse-snatching, armed robbery, car theft and carjacking. The risk of crime is particularly high in Rio de Janeiro (Rio de Janeiro state) and Sao Paulo (Sao Paulo state), as well as in the north-eastern state capitals of Salvador (Bahia state), Recife (Pernambuco state) and Maceio (Alagoas state), and in northern Belem (Para state).

While Brazil continues to combat high levels of crime, homicides are still mostly confined to HIGH travel risk districts and are generally related to drug trafficking. Exercise caution at all times and be aware of the local geography, taking care to avoid HIGH travel risk districts where crime rates are significantly higher. Although foreign nationals are more vulnerable in the evening and late at night, street crime can occur at any time of the day. Even the safer and tourist areas of cities are not immune to crime. Criminals are commonly armed. If targeted, avoid resisting or antagonising the assailant.

Petty crime such as pickpocketing and bag theft is more prevalent in public places and around establishments that cater to tourists, such as airports, hotels, bus stations, beaches, bars and nightclubs. Avoid carrying valuables or wearing expensive clothing, jewellery or watches. Business travellers should not be seen distracted on their cell phone or listening to music while in transit to their destination. Opportunistic crime targeting foreign nationals increases notably prior to and during the annual Carnival celebration, which is generally held in February or March. Additionally, business travellers should be aware of the increase in assaults during the Carnival period.

Never accept food or drinks from strangers, as criminals often use such opportunities to drug victims. Many tourists have reported falling victim to the date rape/predator drug 'Boa noite Cinderela' (Goodnight Cinderella), particularly at entertainment venues. The drug causes the victim to lose consciousness for several hours. When they awake, they have either

been sexually assaulted or robbed. Always keep food and drink in sight and limit alcohol intake, as individuals are more vulnerable to attack if they are perceived to be intoxicated.

In crowded areas, gangs sometimes start fake fights to divert attention away from theft. Such incidents are often accompanied by violence. Never take valuables to the beach since all beaches tend to attract criminals.

Although women travellers face the same level of risk from crime as male travellers, they are more likely to be targeted by snatch-and-grab thieves while walking alone. The perpetrators are often young children and seek out necklaces, wristwatches or handbags that are easy to grab. Women should avoid taking taxis alone at night and should be accompanied by a trusted contact.

Mass robberies

Mass robberies, which are known as 'arrastoes,' are common on beaches and in other crowded areas and during traffic congestion. During arrastoes, a group of criminals swiftly storm an area to steal valuables from a large number of people. These can take place in restaurants, bars, on public transport and – less frequently – remote locations such as nature parks.

Threats outside main urban areas

The trafficking of firearms and narcotics continues to occur along nearly all Brazilian borders, and related security operations and shoot-outs can pose incidental risks to bystanders. Highway robbery occurs around Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Business travellers should exercise caution while travelling at night through satellite cities of the capital Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and other state capitals, as well as rural areas, due to the significant risk posed by roadside robberies. Business travellers should exercise caution in the tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay due to high levels of organised criminal activity and smuggling.

Criminals have increasingly targeted small towns in the interior of the country for large-scale armed robberies at establishments such as banks and jewellery stores. Such towns usually have populations of less than 30,000 people, and criminals are able to temporarily control entrances to the city and avert a security force response. While casualties aside from perpetrators and the security forces are rarely reported, such incidents – termed 'novo cangaco' or 'dominio de cidade' – often result in shoot-outs, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

Risks in favelas

Criminal gangs and drug cartels have established strongholds in urban centres, concentrating primarily in favelas where, despite constant military and police operations, gang and drug-related violence continues to be high. The security forces frequently conduct raids targeting favelas in an attempt to evict drug traffickers. While such incidents typically remain restricted to the favelas, armed confrontations occasionally spill over into adjacent upscale and tourist areas as well as major roads. Clashes between criminal gangs and the security forces may pose incidental risks to bystanders.

Police operations against criminal gangs can also involve the establishment of checkpoints and roadblocks around the targeted favelas. Pacifying Police Units (UPPs), implemented through a community-based policing programme, are active within many favelas, especially those located in or near upscale neighbourhoods in the south of Rio de Janeiro.

Police operations have subsequently increased in these areas, though the programme has faced resistance from various gangs, which target the security forces, local government facilities and occasionally civilians. However, this violence is likely to remain confined to the favelas, leading to roadblocks by burning buses, usually with no victims, that can cause traffic disruption, particularly on main highways such as Avenida Brasil and Linha Amarela. Similar programmes to reduce crime rates have been implemented in the outlying areas of other cities, such as Curitiba (Parana state) and Salvador. In October 2025, a police operation in Rio de Janeiro targeting the Comando Vermelho gang in the Alemao and Penha favelas resulted in at least 132 deaths, including five police officers, leading to one of the highest death tolls in a police operation in Brazil. However, the operation failed to capture the group's top leaders. The operation caused widespread mobility disruption across the city, with intermittent road closures along major routes such as Avenida Brasil, Linha Amarela and Linha Vermelha, leading to traffic congestion near Galeao International Airport (GIG) and affecting public transport.

Violence against LGBTQ+ community

Brazil continues to have one of the highest rates of LGBTQ+-related homicides in the world. Violence targeting the LGBTQ+ community occurs all over the country, though most crimes target local nationals.

LGBTQ+ individuals are advised to maintain a low profile and exercise heightened vigilance and awareness of their surroundings, as the risk of being targeted because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity may be higher than in their home country. They should pay attention to possible signs of being followed. In areas outside Brazil's more cosmopolitan urban centres, such as Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, those who are concerned about their risk profile should consider minimising the possibility of drawing attention to themselves through public displays of affection, dress, display of accessories or behaviour that may indicate their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Terrorism

Minimal risk to foreigners

TERRORISM

International terrorist organisations have no known operational presence in Brazil at this time. However, at least ten local nationals allegedly planning a terror attack ahead of an international sporting event in Rio de Janeiro (Rio de Janeiro state) in 2016 were arrested. Although none of the suspects had made direct contact or communication with members of the Iraq- and

Syria-based extremist Islamic State (IS) group, some of the individuals had reportedly pledged allegiance to the organisation. However, the event passed off without any major incident.

There is also some evidence to suggest that international Islamist organisations such as the Lebanon-based Hezbollah are involved in fundraising and money laundering in the tri-border area between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. Previously, the authorities have arrested people allegedly linked to Hezbollah in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo for reportedly plotting attacks against Jewish communities. Nevertheless, Brazil is unlikely to be a significant target for Islamist militant attacks in the medium- to long-term.

Previously, two explosions occurred near the Supreme Court building in the capital Brasilia's Three Towers Plaza, killing the perpetrator. The attack was investigated as a terrorist act and linked to right-wing extremism.

Kidnapping

KIDNAPPING

There is a risk of kidnapping, but most victims are wealthy local business people or their family members. Foreign nationals on short visits are unlikely to be targeted unless they appear especially wealthy.

However, business travellers face an increased risk of falling victim to opportunistic, short-term abductions known as seqüestros relâmpago (express kidnaps), which often occur near banks, ATMs, bars and restaurants. During an express kidnap, criminals abduct victims for several hours to receive a quick payoff from the affected family or business, or to extract money from the victim's ATM cards. Victims frequently are returned unharmed, but can incur injuries. Business travellers should use ATMs in well-lit locations, such as major hotels or inside banks, to avoid the risk posed by express kidnapping. Virtual or bogus kidnap attempts have been declining but can happen, especially in major urban centres such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. These tend to be extortion scams, which involves a criminal placing a telephone call, falsely claiming to have abducted a family member and demanding a ransom. Although it is mostly locals who are targeted in this crime, foreign nationals are vulnerable due to their perceived wealth. Foreign nationals can reduce their exposure to such scams by ensuring they do not share personal information, including family details, in public, with strangers or on the internet. Business travellers should also be mindful of speaking loudly in public places where criminals may overhear their conversation.

Social Unrest

SOCIAL UNREST

Sporadic demonstrations motivated by economic and political concerns are common. Protests can turn boisterous at short notice and the presence of security force personnel during scheduled or impromptu gatherings can lead to road closures and traffic diversions. Transport workers have previously organised strikes and road blockades that impacted other sectors, including causing school closures and flight cancellations, due to the extent of the protest.

Disruptive demonstrations followed the 2022 presidential election, in which Luiz Inacio 'Lula' da Silva defeated incumbent Jair Bolsonaro. Galvanised by claims of electoral fraud, protesters staged roadblocks and occupied areas outside military bases across the country in the weeks that followed the election. On 8 January 2023, thousands of Bolsonaro supporters stormed government buildings, including the Congress and the presidential palace. In September 2025, Brazil's Supreme Federal Court sentenced Bolsonaro to 27 years in prison for plotting a coup to overturn the election, triggering renewed pro- and anti-Bolsonaro demonstrations in major cities such as the capital Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro (Rio de Janeiro state), Salvador (Bahia state) and Sao Paulo (Sao Paulo state).

Protests and work stoppages relating to wage settlements also tend to occur prior to significant events such as Christmas, New Year's and Carnival celebration. Such issues are commonly resolved through last-minute agreements made by the authorities.

The Landless Workers' Movement (MST) and its more radical offshoot, the Movement for the Liberation of the Landless, frequently stage demonstrations, advocating for land redistribution from wealthy landowners to rural farmers. While these groups are more active in rural areas, the affiliated Homeless Workers' Movement (MTST) operates mainly in urban centres, particularly Sao Paulo, where protests and eviction operations have occasionally turned violent.

Indigenous groups in the Amazon are increasingly opposing mining, logging and ranching activities, as well as major development projects such as the Belo Monte Dam. The Pataxo community has also staged protests and occupied farms in Bahia, claiming the land forms part of a historic Indigenous reserve. Indigenous activists have additionally protested against proposed legislation seen as threatening Indigenous land rights, which was ultimately struck down by the Supreme Federal Court in September 2023. More recently, Indigenous leaders staged demonstrations at the COP30 to highlight concerns over environmental protection and Indigenous land rights.

Conflict

CONFLICT

Brazil has not been involved in any major conflict; however, there are unresolved issues with certain neighbouring countries. An uncontested dispute exists with Uruguay over certain islands in the Quarai/Cuareim and Invernada boundary streams, while there is also a growing energy dispute with Bolivia, which supplies approximately half of Brazil's total gas requirements. Since Bolivia nationalised its energy industry, the monopoly of the Brazilian-owned company Petrobras has been threatened, and the countries are engaged in negotiations about the firm's future role in Bolivia. Brazil is also concerned about the cocaine trade from neighbouring countries expanding further into its territory. The border area with Bolivia and the tri-border area with Argentina and Paraguay are also known to be a haven for smuggling gangs (including firearms and drugs); the military occasionally participates in joint security operations, though the vast expanse of this area overwhelms the understaffed forces.