

Travel

Airports

There are two different airports in Rio.

- Galeão International Airport (GIG) serves international flights.
- Santos Dumont (SDU) serves domestic flights.

Visa Requirements

Brazil has updated its visa policies recently. Please check your own status carefully.

- **E-Visa Requirement:** The rules have changed in 2026 and check your requirements carefully. New in 2026, citizens of the United States, Canada, Australia, Mexico, and France now must obtain an E-Visa before their trip.
- **Official Information:** For detailed requirements and application procedures, please refer to:
 - [Consulate General of Brazil - Visa Information](#)
 - [ICLR 2026 Visa & Travel Page](#)
- **Invitation Letters:** Available for registered attendees via the links immediately above.

Getting Around & to Riocentro

- **Ride Sharing:** Uber is the most popular way to travel and it is generally the safest method of travel.
- **Taxis:** Use official, marked taxis only. Never use unmarked cars if they aren't an Uber that you called.
- **Airport Rides:** When arriving at the airport, do not accept car rides from drivers asking around. Either call an Uber or go to the official taxi counter.

Safety

Rio de Janeiro is a vibrant city, but like all major metropolises, there is a possibility of crime. Thousands of tourists visit safely every day, but be careful and always remain aware of your surroundings.

General Crime & Awareness

- **Street Smarts:** The most common issue is opportunistic theft. Be aware of your surroundings. Keep your phone in a front pocket or zipped bag. Do not walk down the street while distracted by your phone. Avoid walking in empty areas at night. Ask your

receptionist at the hotel for which areas are safe. Remain on main avenues and major roads. If you must use your phone, duck into a shop first.

- **Valuables:** Avoid displaying laptops or cameras openly. Never leave belongings unattended.

Specific Precautions

- **After Dark:** Use Uber (which tracks your location) to move between neighborhoods at night. Avoid walking on the beach sand at night. Stick to the illuminated paved promenade.
- **ATMs:** Credit cards are accepted widely, even by street and beach stands. You likely do not need cash. If you really must obtain cash, use ATMs located inside bank branches or shopping malls rather than street-side machines. Be careful leaving the ATM / bank and do not signal that you have cash. People sometimes wait outside ATMs watching who has collected cash. Use credit cards whenever possible.
- **Drugs:** Penalties for drug possession are severe.

In an Emergency

- **Tourist Police (DEAT):** Rio has a specialized police unit for tourists.
 - **Address:** Av. Afrânio de Melo Franco, 159 – Leblon.
 - **Phone:** +55 (21) 2332-2924
- **General Emergency Numbers:**
 - **Police:** 190
 - **Ambulance:** 192
 - **Fire:** 193

Accessibility & Inclusion

- **LGBTQI+ Travelers:** Rio is a LGBTQI+ friendly city and same-sex marriage is legal. However, LGBTQI+ individuals may face discrimination in less tourist-centric areas.
- **Travelers with Disabilities:** Riocentro is a modern facility and is fully accessible. Newer hotels in Barra da Tijuca tend to have better accessibility than older historic hotels in the Center. The larger city is generally accessible, but some areas may present challenges for mobility.

Miscellaneous

- **Language:** Portuguese. (English is usually spoken in major hotels and tourist areas).
- **Power Plugs:** Type N (three round pins) and Type C (two round pins). Most buildings in Rio de Janeiro run on 127V, but others will run on 220V. Check your devices!
- **Water:** We recommend bottled or filtered water for travelers.

- **Food:** Be careful with raw vegetables, fruits, and other fresh food. Always clean fruits / vegetables before eating it. Hot food and boiled water is generally safer because it will kill any bacteria.
- **Lodging:** Stay at reputable hotel chains. If a deal is too good to be true, it probably is. Be cautious with Airbnb.