



Cruz the Coast Brazil Olympic Packages 2016

Rio – 7 Days & Nights



The Marvelous City (“Cidade Maravilhosa”) just got even better. Join us in Rio de Janeiro for an unforgettable 7 days and nights. You will become a part of history as Rio de Janeiro becomes the first city in South America to host the Olympics games! You can’t beat our value and you can’t beat our inclusions. No other team is as experienced as ours, and no other city is nearly as much fun as Rio!

To give you an idea of what you can expect for the duration of the package, we start with an awesome opening ceremony party night out in Rio! During the following days you will be awed by sunset from the top of Pão de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf) mountain, be taken to Christ the Redeemer himself for some front-row selfie action, visit one of Rio’s most colourful favelas with the option of trekking to the top of Dois Irmãos (Two Brothers) mountain for a breathtaking view of the South Zone. Another marvelous day you will be whisked away on a scenic boat cruise around the stunning Guanabara Bay. You’ll also have the opportunity to explore Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon, Santa Teresa, the City Cathedral, the Lapa Steps and even a visit to one of Rio’s most famous Samba Schools – for a taste of Brazilian Carnival!

The city proudly offers an unforgettable variety of night-time activities with a 100% provision of parties 24/7. You will find bars, clubs and restaurants on every corner of every street. You can enjoy music from all around the world, from native Brazilian samba & bossa nova to the hip international numbers. To help you find your way, we will spoil you with your own guided escort and special discounted entry to the best parties and events in Rio - every night of the week if you’re keen! Our knowledgeable, bilingual guides will be on-hand day and night to take you to the very best of Rio’s attractions, and of course to direct you to all of your pre-booked sporting events.

This is a once in a life-time event. To see Rio de Janeiro in its prime like this is too good an opportunity to miss... Life is short! Book now!

Summary of Inclusions

- 7 nights stay in our centrally located hotel with a restaurant, gym & small outdoor pool;
- Twin or double share in private ensuite, air-conditioned rooms*;
- Free WIFI and safes in every room;
- Buffet breakfast included every morning;
- Arrival and departure airport transfers upon request;
- Discounted entry into Rio’s BEST parties;
- Opening Ceremony Welcome Party Night with drinks included;
- Expert bilingual guides on-hand 24hrs (staying in our group hotel);
- Escorted group outings offered every day & night for those keen;
- Walking City Tour: Centro & Lapa;
- Sugarloaf Mountain Sunset Tour;
- Corcovado Tour (Christ the Redeemer) via Santa Teresa Art Galleries & Cafes;
- Favela Tour of Vidigal;
- Trek to Dois Irmãos Mountain;
- Scenic Boat Cruise around Guanabara Bay;
- Beach Excursion to Ipanema & Leblon
- Samba School Visit (optional Samba Dance Class on offer!);

*Single room supplements available, subject to availability

Accommodation

Our group hotel has been carefully selected for its excellent location, cleanliness, comfort and security. Unless otherwise requested you will be sharing with one other group member in twin share. If you would prefer to have your own private room, ask about our single room supplements.

We try to match people of similar ages together whenever possible. All rooms have air-conditioning, two individual beds and ensuite bathrooms. Towels and toiletries will be included and a big buffet breakfast will be on offer every morning until late. The hotel also has 24-hour Reception, 24-hour Security and safes in each and every room.

You'll be amazed at our hotel's close proximity to all the action! We're literally in the middle of everything. Not only is this area full of rich history and culture, but Lapa is well famous as being Rio's 'nightlife mecca'. You won't have to worry about getting a taxi back at night-time, as the hotel is within walking distance of all the best bars, street parties and samba clubs!

We're also conveniently located just a hop, skip and a jump away from major supermarkets, ATMS, bottle shops, restaurants, take-away food, juice bars, cafes, markets, pharmacies, clothing stores, beauty salons and every other type of shop you can imagine. The attractions of 'Centro' are just down the road, and you can get a bus or metro to Copacabana beach in less than 20 minutes!

Day 1 – Friday 5th of August

Welcome to Rio! Today is an arrival day. Our airport transfer service is available and included upon request. Taxis are also readily available. Our hotel is located in Lapa; Rio's colourful and historical bohemian centre and the perfect location to make the most of your nights. You are free to arrive when you wish, but check-in is from 2pm. Our crew will be on-hand waiting for you at the hotel ready to give you a map, answer all your questions and take you on an informative orientation walk around the hotel area.

You may wish to explore the area on your own, go shopping in the nearby markets, get yourself a Brazilian manicure or simply people-watch over a coffee! Lapa is at the heart of Rio's best cultural scene; Samba clubs, theatres, capoeira halls, old historical houses converted into trendy antique stores, funky bars, restaurants, cafes, plenty of outdoor eating & drinking and of course the world-wide famous Lapa Arches & Selaron Stairs!

Our guides will make a time for us to meet in the hotel lobby, after which the festivities will commence... Tonight we will take you out to watch the Opening Ceremony! If you haven't already tried Brazil's most famous cocktail, tonight is the night. The caipirinha cocktail is a deliciously sweet and sour cocktail made from Brazil's cachaça (fermented sugar cane) in a lovely concoction of lime, sugar & ice. Once you've had one you will be ready to enjoy the night! Once the ceremony concludes, our guides will be there to escort us to the best parties in town. Tonight is the first night of the first ever South American Olympics... The atmosphere will be electric!

INCLUDED: Airport Transfer; Opening Ceremony welcome party with drinks; Night out accompanied by guide/s

Day 2 – Saturday 6th of August

This morning after breakfast we will take you on a relaxing walking tour of Rio's city centre. This will give you a good introduction and feel for the historical centre of Rio de Janeiro and at the same time further orientate you. We will take you through the most interesting and attractive touristic places in the city centre, such as Avenida Rio Branco, Cinelandia (Opera House), Selaron Steps, Lapa Aqueduct, the City Cathedral and more!

If you have tickets to an event, our crew will be on hand every morning with public transport information, maps and detailed instructions on how to arrive to your specified arena on time.

After lunch, we will meet in the hotel lobby to be escorted down to Gloria Maria to board our magnificent private schooner boat. The next 3-4 hours will be spent cruising around Rio's spectacular Guanabara Bay! We'll have the opportunity to view the city in yet another light and from yet another angle... with fantastic views of Sugar Loaf and Christ. On-board there will be a bathroom, music, chill-out area, snacks and bar - to indulge in some beers and caipirinhas in the afternoon sun!

After an exciting first day exploring this incredible city, we will offer to escort those who are keen to the biggest and best party of the evening! Your first Olympic Saturday night in Rio de Janeiro!

INCLUDED: Breakfast; Walking City Tour; Guanabara Bay Boat Cruise; Night out accompanied by guide/s

Day 3 – Sunday 7th of August

This morning, as with every morning, our guides will be down at breakfast to give out information, remind you of what's on offer and help you make your way to the Olympic arenas if you have a ticket.

Today we offer an included tour of the favela Vidigal (a pacified favela on the cliff next to Leblon) followed by a guided hike to the top of the Dois Irmãos (Two Brothers) mountain (an easy/medium difficulty hike that takes about 1.5 hours). At the top you will be blessed with some breathtaking views looking over all of Zona Sul (Leblon, Ipanema, Copacabana, Lagoa, Christ the Redeemer). This definitely should not be missed.

On the way back down the mountain we will once again walk back through the favela Vidigal, where you can buy yourself some deliciously icy (and cheap) açai from the friendly locals - to replenish your energy for the night ahead!

INCLUDED: Breakfast; Favela Tour of Vidigal; Hike to the top of Dois Irmãos; Night out accompanied by guide/s

Day 4 – Monday 8th of August

This morning after breakfast we will drive through the Tijuca National Park to Corcovado, for our guided visit to the Christ. The statue of Christ the Redeemer is one of the most iconic sights of Rio and we should get a fantastic view over the rest of the city as well - 710 metres up! On the way back down we'll pass through Santa Teresa, where our guide will point out the most impressive old mansions (most dating from the late 1800's when the rich moved here to escape mosquito-ridden areas below), the most colourful of art galleries and the rickety old trams of the past...

If you're up for more partying tonight, our guides will accompany you to the most vibrant party happening in the city!

INCLUDED: Breakfast; Tour to Christ the Redeemer via Santa Teresa; Night out accompanied by guide/s

Day 5 – Tuesday 9th of August

There will definitely be some wanting a free day today, to recover from those action-packed first few days!

As always our guides will be at breakfast to give insider tips as to where is best to go today. You might like to visit one of Rio's incredible beaches in the South Zone; Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon or Barra. If it is your first time 'beaching' it in Rio, be prepared to soak up an incredibly amazing atmosphere. Buy yourself an empanada, a bag of cashews or a barbecued cheese stick. Wash it all down with chilled coconut water or an icy cold Brazilian beer – all of which can very easily be bought directly from your beach umbrella!

If you'd like to go to the beach as a group, our guides will offer to take you to Ipanema & Leblon this afternoon.

Once again tonight our guides will be around to take you to the best party of the night!

INCLUDED: Breakfast; Beach excursion; Night out accompanied by guide/s

Day 6 – Wednesday 10th of August

Another leisurely morning. You are free to return to the beach, maybe check out some museums and other cultural points in the city centre, or of course head to some of the Olympic Events. Alternatively, if you want to pick up some souvenirs or experience Rio's vibrant fashion scene, our guides can recommend the best spots to suit your shopping desires.

After lunch we will take you to the famous Sugar Loaf mountain, where you will be able to ride in two cable cars up to the top and experience some incredible views of the city and surrounding bay as the sun sets on Rio. The cable car's first stop is on the hill Morro de Urca. For those feeling adventurous and active there is a relatively easy 30-minute trail leading you through the forest uphill to Morro de Urca, which one of our guides will accompany you on. Or you can take the cable cars the entire way. Either way you'll get to experience out-of-this-world views from both vantage-points.

Then as always... It's party time in Rio for those keen to hit the town!

INCLUDED: Breakfast; Sugarloaf Mountain Sunset Tour; Night out accompanied by guide/s

Day 7 – Thursday 11th of August

Today for those who missed out on Day 2, we will take you on a relaxing walking tour of Rio's city centre.

Tonight you will get a taste of what Carnival is all about when we take you to visit one of Rio's most famous samba schools: Beija-Flor (which means hummingbird, a beloved and omnipresent bird in Rio State). This school is located on the outskirts of Rio, in a place called Nilopolis. Beija-Flor is currently ranked the highest among all Rio samba schools. It is the only school with a whole team of designers, whereas most other schools have only one. They are well known for their creative extravagance.

For those high on Carnival fever, be ready to have an amazing night out with our guides for your LAST night in Rio, during South America's first ever Olympic Games!

INCLUDED: Breakfast; Walking City Tour; Samba School visit; Night out in Rio accompanied by guide/s

Day 8 – Friday 12th of August

Your 7 Day Olympic package officially finishes at midday today (which happens to be check-out time!). The rest of the day is yours to enjoy. If you have time to explore a bit more of Brazil, you may be interested in joining us on our 10 night/11 day overland trip to Salvador - stopping at all the best beach-towns along the way. Ask us for a detailed itinerary!

INCLUDED: Breakfast; Guide on-hand to give tips & advise if you're staying longer; Airport transfer (on request)

Itinerary disclaimer

We may be faced with unexpected circumstances at times, for example bad weather, changes to Olympic schedules, demonstrations/strikes, inconveniences caused by local operators and authorities, and other circumstances beyond our control. Changes in the program may be required to make the best of the situations that we encounter.